



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

MAY 10 2010

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Ida Riggins
Pit River Tribe
36970 Park Avenue
Burney, CA 96013

Dear Chairperson Riggins:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to designate the lands of the Pit River Tribe as “unclassifiable/attainment” for the 2006 24-hour fine particle (PM_{2.5}) national ambient air quality standard (NAAQS).

On October 14, 2009, my predecessor, Laura Yoshii, sent you a letter notifying you of new violations of the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS in Plumas County and Shasta County, California. Because your reservation is located within the boundaries of Shasta County, she also notified you of EPA’s decision to defer the designations for Plumas and Shasta counties, as well as eight surrounding counties¹, for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS so that EPA could collect and evaluate additional information before promulgating designations for these counties and the tribal lands within them. At that time, EPA had received requests from the California Air Resources Board (ARB) to exclude certain monitored violations in these counties pursuant to our exceptional events rule.

We have completed our review of the exceptional event claims and supporting documentation that ARB submitted and, based on that review, EPA has concurred with the exceptional event claims. After excluding data collected on days with exceptional events, the 2006-2008 air quality monitoring data indicate that the PM_{2.5} monitors in both Plumas and Shasta counties are attaining the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS. EPA has therefore determined that the California counties and tribal lands for which area designations were deferred are currently in attainment of the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard and

¹ The additional counties for which EPA deferred designation are Butte (partial), Lassen, Modoc, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity and Yuba (partial) counties. The nonattainment designations for the areas within Butte and Yuba counties that were finalized in 2008 remain unchanged. See the Federal Register notice for final 24-hour PM_{2.5} designations, at: www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/2006standards/regs.htm#3.

intends to designate all ten counties and the tribal lands within them as “unclassifiable/attainment” for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

If you have any comments on EPA’s intended designation for your reservation, please contact us by June 18, 2010. We intend to finalize these remaining designation decisions for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} standards in August 2010.

We look forward to continuing to work with you and your staff to ensure a healthy environment. Should you or your air quality staff have any questions, please contact Colleen McKaughan, Associate Air Division Director, at 520-498-0118.

Sincerely,



Jared Blumenfeld
Regional Administrator

cc: Sophia Villarruel, Environmental Coordinator