



October 3, 2008

Wayne Nastri, Regional Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX  
75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, California 94105

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AIR DIVISION  
U.S. EPA, REGION 9

Dear Mr. Nastri:

Thank you for the letter dated August 22, 2008 regarding the planned designation status of fine particle (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) air pollution in the Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community (SRPMIC). SRPMIC agrees that fine particle pollution represents a significant barrier to cleaner air, as fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) can remain suspended in the air for extended time periods creating public health issues.

SRPMIC concurs with Environmental Protection Agency regarding its intent to designate the SRPMIC area as attainment/unclassifiable for the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> health standard. SRPMIC feels that future air quality in the Community will be dependent on future emissions data, air quality data, population density, degree of urbanization (including commercial development), traffic/commuting patterns, growth rates/patterns, meteorology, geography/topography, jurisdictional boundaries, and local emissions. These monitored factors will need an active SRPMIC Air Quality Program (AQP), requiring both external and internal resources.

As a tribal sovereign, the Community appreciates the opportunity to submit these comments regarding the fine particle (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) designation and looks forward to working constructively to address fine particle (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) in the Community. Should you or your staff have any questions or concerns with these comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at your convenience at 480-362-7625.

Sincerely,

Ondrea Barber, Manager  
Environmental Protection & Natural Resources