



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 Arnold Schwarzenegger
Governor of California
State Capitol Building
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Schwarzenegger:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to designate Lassen, Modoc, Plumas, Shasta, Sierra, Siskiyou, Tehama, Trinity and portions of Butte and Yuba counties¹ 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. In that letter, she also notified you of EPA’s decision to defer the designations for Plumas and Shasta counties, as well as eight surrounding counties, for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS so that EPA could collect and evaluate additional information before promulgating designations for these counties. 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. On March 11, 2010, I sent a letter to Mary Nichols, Chairman, California Air Resources Board, notifying her of this decision. 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 Plumas County, Shasta County, and the other eight California counties for which area designations were deferred are in attainment of the 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard at this time and intends to designate all ten counties as “unclassifiable/attainment” for the 2006 24-hour PM_{2.5} NAAQS.

¹ The nonattainment designations for the areas within Butte and Yuba counties that were previously finalized remain unchanged. See 74 FR 35699, November 13, 2009.

If you have any comments on EPA's intended designations for these counties, 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.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Your air quality staff may wish to contact Deborah Jordan, Air Division Director, at 415-947-8715. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we implement the PM_{2.5} standards.

Sincerely,



Jared Blumenfeld
Regional Administrator

cc: Linda Adams, Secretary for Environmental Protection, California EPA
Mary Nichols, Chairman, California Air Resources Board
James Goldstene, Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board
Lynn Terry, Deputy Executive Officer, California Air Resources Board
Karen Magliano, Chief, Air Quality Data Branch, Planning and Technical Support
Division, California Air Resources Board
Russ Mull, Air Pollution Control Officer, Shasta County Air Quality Management
District
Gretchen Bennitt, Air Pollution Control Officer, Northern Sierra Air Quality
Management District