



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

**REGION IX**

**75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901**

**OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR**

**AUG 18 2008**

Mr. Robert H. Smith  
Tribal Chairman  
Pala Band of Mission Indians  
12196 Pala Temecula Road  
Pala, California 92059

Dear Chairman Smith:

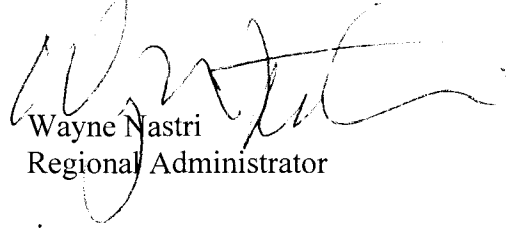
Thank you for your recommendation on the status of fine particle pollution on behalf of the Pala Band of Mission Indians. Fine-particle pollution represents one of the most significant barriers to clean air facing our nation today. Health studies link these tiny particles – about 1/30<sup>th</sup> the diameter of a human hair – to serious human health problems, including aggravated asthma, increased respiratory symptoms such as coughing and difficult or painful breathing, chronic bronchitis, decreased lung function, and even premature death in people with heart and lung disease. Fine particle pollution can remain suspended in the air for long periods of time and create public health problems far away from emission sources. Reducing levels of fine-particle (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) pollution is an important part of our nation's commitment to clean, healthy air.

We have reviewed the December 13, 2007 letter from you submitting the Pala Band of Mission Indians' recommendation for the air quality designations for the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards. We appreciate the effort the Tribe has made to develop and submit this recommendation. Consistent with the Clean Air Act, this letter is to inform you that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) intends to designate the Pala Band of Mission Indians Reservation as attainment/unclassifiable for the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> health standard. If you would like to provide additional information about the PM<sub>2.5</sub> status of your Reservation or adjoining areas for our consideration, please provide it to Deborah Jordan, the Air Division Director, by October 20, 2008.

EPA has taken steps to reduce fine particle pollution across the country, such as the Clean Diesel Program to dramatically reduce emissions from highway, nonroad and stationary diesel engines. In addition, implementation plans to attain the 1997 PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards will also help to reduce unhealthy levels of fine particle pollution.

We intend to make final designation decisions for the 2006 24-hour PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards by December 18, 2008. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me or have your staff contact Colleen McKaughan at (520) 498-0118. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you as we work together to implement the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Wayne Nasti", written over the printed name and title.

Wayne Nasti  
Regional Administrator

cc: Lenore Volturno, Director of Environmental Services