

Janice K. Brewer
Governor

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1110 West Washington Street • Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 771-2300 • www.azdeq.gov



Henry R. Darwin
Acting Director

VIA: FEDERAL EXPRESS

January 25, 2011

Mr. Jared Blumenfeld, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
Mail Code: ORA-1
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, Ca 94105

RE: Withdrawal of the MAG 2007 Five Percent Plan for PM-10 for the Maricopa County Nonattainment Area

Dear Administrator Blumenfeld:

Despite our contention that the *MAG 2007 Five Percent Plan for PM-10 for the Maricopa County Nonattainment Area* ("5% Plan") has been effective and is approvable, the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) hereby withdraws the 5% Plan from any further action or consideration by the United State Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

As noted in our October 20, 2011, joint comment letter, ADEQ, the Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG) and the Maricopa County Air Quality Department (MCAQD) maintain that the 5% Plan, along with other previous plans, have been effective in improving air quality throughout the region. As a direct result of the plans that have been submitted, the annual average concentration of PM₁₀ within the Phoenix area between 1990 and 2009 has declined approximately 25%. During this same time, Maricopa County experienced unprecedented growth, nearly doubling in population during that same time period. This is a testament to Arizona's commitment to cleaner air.

Although we maintain that the 5% Plan is approvable in its existing form, we recognize that there are always opportunities to build upon our existing plans. Despite withdrawal of the Plan from EPA's consideration, the air quality rules and statutes that are part of the 5% Plan remain in effect. This ensures that Arizona continues to benefit from cleaner air while ADEQ, MAG and MCAQD work with EPA to modify the plan before re-submitting for EPA's consideration and action. We look forward to a cooperative and collaborative effort to resolve these issues over the coming months so that EPA can fully approve an updated 5% Plan.

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Southern Regional Office
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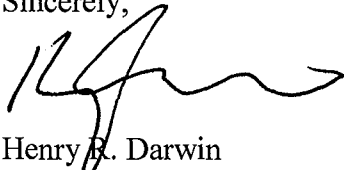
Jared Blumenfeld

January 25, 2011

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If you have any questions, please contact Eric Massey, the Director of ADEQ's Air Quality Division, at (602) 771-2308.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Darwin", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Henry R. Darwin
Acting Director

cc: Deborah Jordan, U.S. EPA Region IX
Colleen McKaughan, U.S. EPA Region IX
William Wiley, Maricopa County Air Quality Department
Dennis Smith, Maricopa Association of Governments
Don Gabrielson, Pinal County Air Quality Control District