

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Region 9

FACT SHEET

Final Affirmation of EPA's October 2006 PM-10 Attainment Determination San Joaquin Valley, California

March 7, 2008

Today's Action

- EPA is today finalizing its August 2007 proposal to affirm its October 2006 determination that the San Joaquin Valley (SJV) has attained the federal ambient air quality standard for particulate matter less than 10 microns in size (PM-10).
- This final action responds to public comments on EPA's evaluation of and concurrence with "flagged" exceedances that occurred through the end of calendar year 2006 at four PM-10 monitors in the SJV.
- This final action concurs with the State of California's request to "flag" PM-10 exceedances that occurred in September, October and December 2006 at various monitors in the SJV that were due to high wind exceptional events.
- This final action also concurs with the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tribe's request to "flag" PM-10 exceedances that occurred in September and October 2006 at the Santa Rosa Rancheria, tribal lands located in the SJV. We believe that, for purposes of comparing data to the PM-10 standard, the monitor at the Santa Rosa Rancheria was not properly sited during this time due to nearby construction activity. We also believe that the construction activity that caused the exceedances was an exceptional event.
- EPA's concurrence with the State and the Tribe's request to "flag" these exceedances in EPA's Air Quality Database means these data are excluded from regulatory consideration, including consideration of whether the SJV has attained the PM-10 standard.
- Today's final rule does not redesignate the SJV to attainment. The State has submitted a PM-10 maintenance plan and request for redesignation to attainment for the SJV which EPA is reviewing.

Background

- On May 8, 2006, the State submitted to EPA a request to make a finding that the SJV attained the PM-10 standard based on data from 2003-2005. On October 17, 2006, EPA made a final determination that the SJV had attained the PM-10 standard.
- In 2007, the State submitted documents to EPA providing technical analyses showing exceedances that occurred during September through December 2006 were due to high winds.
- EPA has worked with the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tribe to evaluate the cause of the PM-10 exceedances on tribal lands. Based on information from tribal representatives, we concluded that the exceedances were caused by construction activity in very close proximity to the tribal monitor. Since the completion of the construction activity, the tribal monitor has not recorded any more exceedances and the PM-10 levels have dropped significantly.
- On August 27, 2007, EPA proposed to concur with the State and Tribe's requests to "flag" these exceedances as being caused by exceptional events and exclude the data from regulatory consideration.

Air Quality in the San Joaquin Valley

- While we continue to believe the SJV has attained the PM-10 standard, the Valley must still implement the PM-10 control measures that have helped clean the air.
- Efforts to improve air quality are far from over as the SJV is continuing to address other air quality standards (ozone and PM-2.5). These efforts should further reduce PM-10.

Further Information

- A copy of the final rulemaking will soon be available in the Air Programs section of EPA Region 9's website, <http://www.epa.gov/region09/air/>, and on www.regulations.gov.
- For more information, please contact Doris Lo, U.S. EPA Region 9, Air Planning Office, at 415-972-3959; lo.doris@epa.gov or Bob Pallarino, U.S. EPA Region 9, Air Quality Analysis Office, at 415-947-4128; pallarino.bob@epa.gov.