



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

MAR 17 2008

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Chairman Nichols:

I am writing to thank you for the strong commitment to meet the federal clean air planning obligations, expressed in Executive Officer Goldstene's letter to me dated February 14, 2008. Mr. Goldstene's letter commits to an expeditious schedule to develop progress and attainment plans for the three areas in California -- Sacramento, Ventura, and Western Mojave Desert -- for which the federal Clean Air Act (CAA) plans have not yet been adopted and submitted. We recognize the magnitude of the State's challenge in developing plans and controls needed to provide clean air to all residents of California, and we appreciate the State's continuing leadership in working with the local agencies to prepare these plans. These three areas already benefit from the Air Resources Board's recent regulatory accomplishments and the new set of State control measure commitments submitted to us in November 2007.

The February 14th letter also included a request to reclassify the Sacramento, Ventura, and Western Mojave Desert areas. We intend to take action to grant the request for voluntary reclassification and to set a deadline for submittal of plans addressing the federal requirements associated with the new classifications, if such plans have not already been submitted to us.

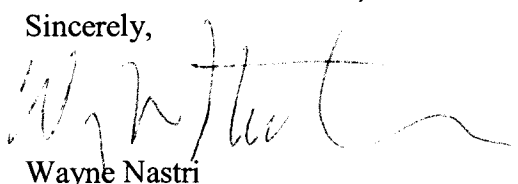
The California Air Resources Board (ARB) has made substantial progress in meeting its obligations under the CAA regarding 8-hour ozone plans, as reflected in the ambitious plans submitted last year for the South Coast and San Joaquin Valley. However, the State has not yet submitted all of the 8-hour ozone plan elements that were due by June 15, 2007. Pursuant to section 179(a) of the CAA, EPA is today making national findings of failure to submit plans addressing the principal requirements associated with each area's current 8-hour ozone classification. For California, EPA is making findings of failure to submit reasonable further progress (RFP) plans for the following areas and RFP milestones: Sacramento -- 2011 milestone; Ventura -- 2008 milestone; and Western Mojave Desert -- 2008 milestone.

EPA will shortly publish a rulemaking notice in the Federal Register announcing those findings as well as findings for other areas across the country. These findings will be effective upon publication of the notice. Please be assured that we will continue to work closely with you to ensure that timely plan submittals are made in accordance with

our mutually agreed schedule set out in the February 14th letter. Once these plans are submitted to us, we will take prompt action to begin processing them expeditiously and to turn off the 18-month and 24-month sanction clocks that are started by the national notice.

We look forward to working closely with you and Executive Officer Goldstene on clean air plan development and adoption for the remaining three nonattainment areas.

Sincerely,

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

Wayne Nasti  
Regional Administrator

cc: See Next Page

cc: James Goldstene, Executive Officer, ARB  
Tom Christofk, APCO, Placer County APCD  
Mat Ehrhardt, Executive Director, Yolo-Solano AQMD  
Larry Greene, Executive Director, Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD  
Eldon Heaston, APCO, Antelope Valley and Mojave Desert AQMDs  
Hasan Ikhata, Executive Director, SCAG  
Mike McKeever, Executive Director, SACOG  
Marcella McTaggart, APCO, El Dorado County AQMD  
Dave Valler, APCO, Feather River AQMD  
Michael Villegas, APCO, Ventura County APCD