

January 12, 2012

Board of Directors  
Eastern Kern APCD  
2700 "M" Street, Suite 302  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**SUBJECT:** Environmental Protection Agency's Proposed Designation of Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District as Nonattainment of the 2008 8-hour National Ambient Air Quality Standard – Information Only

Honorable Board:

The California Air Resources Board (ARB) in response to a request from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has recommended that the Eastern Kern Air Pollution Control District (District) be one of seventeen areas in California designated nonattainment of the 8-hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). In addition, ARB has recommended that the Indian Wells Valley portion of the District be designated as unclassified. This revised 8-hour Ozone NAAQS was promulgated in 2008 and replaces the previous 8-hour ozone NAAQS of 0.08 parts per million (ppm) promulgated in 1997. The level of the revised standard is set at 0.075 ppm for an 8-hour averaging period.

EPA Region IX responded to these ARB recommendations on December 9, 2011 with their proposed designations for sixteen nonattainment areas for the 2008 8-hour Ozone NAAQS. The reason that there is one less nonattainment area proposed in California is because EPA is proposing that the Mojave Desert Air Basin portions of San Bernardino County and Los Angeles County be one nonattainment area instead of two separate areas. The western portion of Kern County is proposed to be designated nonattainment as part of the San Joaquin Valley nonattainment area. The eastern portion of Kern County is proposed to be designated as its own nonattainment area, however, EPA is also proposing to separately designate the Indian Wells Valley as an unclassified/attainment area.

An initial March 2009 recommendation from ARB, that EPA had previously not taken any action on, included the Indian Wells Valley as part of the Eastern Kern Nonattainment Area. However, more recent data for 2008-2011 from two surrounding areas, and preliminary data from the monitor at the China Lake Naval Weapons Station indicated the Indian Wells Valley should not be included in a nonattainment area.

EPA used preliminary data from 2009, 2010 and 2011 that they had from the District's monitoring station at the Mojave Airport for its nonattainment analysis for the remainder of

Eastern Kern. EPA took the fourth highest 8-hour ozone value from the preliminary data for each of those three years, 0.083 ppm for 2009, 0.079 ppm for 2010 and 0.080 ppm for 2011, and averaged it to come up with 2011 design value of 0.080 ppm, which is 0.05 ppm over the 8-hour Ozone NAAQS. The District staff's analysis using final data for the fourth highest 8-hour ozone value for 2009 (0.083 ppm) and 2010 (0.075 ppm), along with using preliminary data for 2011 (0.082 ppm), resulted in slightly different values for two of the three years than what was used by EPA, but results in the same 0.080 ppm design value result for 2011.

EPA intends to final there recommendations for California by April of 2012, but it may be delayed further into 2012. Once the recommendation is finalized the District would have three years to submit a complete revision of our State Implementation Plan for Ozone to EPA.

I have attached the 2009 and 2011 recommendations from ARB to EPA, the December 9, 2011 response from EPA, including excerpts from the EPA staff's analysis concerning Eastern Kern, and the December 20, 2011 Federal Register notice of the proposal for your reference.

**IT IS RECOMMENDED** your Board receive and file.

Sincerely,

David L. Jones  
Air Pollution Control Officer

DLJ: dm  
Attachments