

January 11, 2024

Beth W. Palma, Group Leader
Geographic Strategies Group
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards
109 TW Alexander Drive (C539-04)
Research Triangle Park, NC 27711
Palma.Elizabeth@epa.gov

Dear Group Leader Palma:

The California Air Resources Board is submitting final documentation for a 2021 exceptional event that occurred in Nevada County in the Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District. The California Air Resources Board requests that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency concur that the document accompanying this request supports the flagging of PM_{2.5} data as due to smoke impacts from a prescribed fire.

Unusually high PM_{2.5} concentrations were recorded at the Grass Valley monitoring site (Air Quality System Site ID 06-057-0005) on April 20, 2021. The analyses and data presented in the enclosed document demonstrate that the Grass Valley site was impacted by smoke from the U.S. Forest Service's Deadwood Vegetation Management and Fuels Reduction Project in neighboring Placer County.

The 30-day public comment period required by 40 Code of Federal Regulations § 50.14(c)(3)(v) began on November 30, 2023, and was completed on December 29, 2023. No comments were received.

On October 3, 2016, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency revised the Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events Rule that allows data to be flagged and excluded from consideration by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency when making decisions related to the attainment status of an area or on a case-by-case basis as determined by the Administrator (81 Federal Register 68216). The Exceptional Events Rule requires that states submit documentation to support the initial flagging to the appropriate U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Regional Office.

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If you have any questions regarding the enclosed documentation, please contact Sylvia Vanderspek, Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch, at Sylvia.Vanderspek@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Michael Benjamin, D. Env., Division Chief, Air Quality Planning and Science Division

Enclosure

cc: Without enclosure

Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District
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Sylvia Vanderspek, Branch Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch