



## ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR AIR AND RADIATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

February 23, 2024

Mr. Michael Benjamin  
Division Chief  
Air Quality Planning and Science Division  
California Air Resources Board  
Post Office Box 2815  
Sacramento, California 95812

Via Electronic Mail: [michael.benjamin@arb.ca.gov](mailto:michael.benjamin@arb.ca.gov)

Dear Mr. Benjamin:

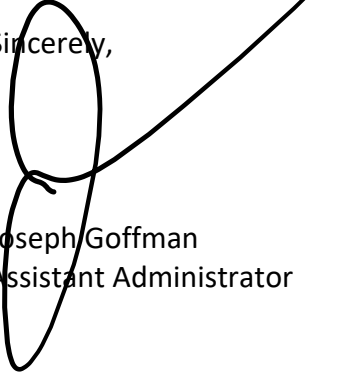
Pursuant to the provisions in the Exceptional Events Rule, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) concurs with the state's request to exclude data showing exceedances of the 2012 annual PM<sub>2.5</sub> National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) on April 20, 2021, at the Grass Valley monitoring site (Air Quality System Site ID 06-057-0005) in Nevada County, California.

The January 11, 2024, exceptional events submittal from the California Air Resources Board included documentation that the April 20, 2021, PM<sub>2.5</sub> exceedances were caused by emissions from prescribed fires on wildland. After thoroughly reviewing the information you provided, we agree that the state's submittal meets the demonstration criteria and the schedule and procedural requirements in the Exceptional Events Rule codified in the Code of Federal Regulations at 50.1, 50.14 and 51.930. The basis for our concurrence is set forth in the enclosed technical support document. My staff will enter concurrence qualifier codes ("flags") for these data in the EPA's Air Quality System database.

The EPA's concurrence is a preliminary step in the regulatory process for actions that may rely on the dataset containing the event-influenced data and does not constitute final Agency action. If the EPA completes a notice-and-comment rulemaking for an action that is influenced by the exclusion of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> data specified in this concurrence, the EPA's concurrence letter and accompanying technical support document would be included in the record as part of the technical basis for the proposed action. If we receive comments during such an action, we will consider and respond to those comments before taking final regulatory action. When the EPA issues that regulatory action, it will be a final Agency action subject to judicial review.

We appreciate the robust technical analysis and collaborative approach used to develop this exceptional events submission. If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please have your staff contact Gobeail McKinley, (919) 541-5246 or [mckinley.gobeail@epa.gov](mailto:mckinley.gobeail@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

  
Joseph Goffman  
Assistant Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Sylvia Vanderspek, Branch Chief, Air Quality Planning Branch  
[Sylvia.Vanderspek@arb.ca.gov](mailto:Sylvia.Vanderspek@arb.ca.gov)

Julie Hunter, Air Pollution Control Officer  
Northern Sierra Air Quality Management District  
[apco@fragmd.org](mailto:apco@fragmd.org)