March 4, 2015

Mr. Jared Blumenfeld
Regional Administrator
Region 9
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, California 94105

Dear Mr. Blumenfeld:

The Air Resources Board (ARB) is submitting to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) the 2015 Supplement to the 24-Hour PM2.5 State Implementation Plan for the South Coast Air Basin (PM2.5 Plan Supplement) as a revision to the California State Implementation Plan (SIP). The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) adopted the PM2.5 Plan Supplement on February 6, 2015, and ARB approved it on February 19, 2015.

The PM2.5 Plan Supplement submittal consists of one hard copy and one exact duplicate electronic copy on compact discs of the following items.

I. The SCAQMD submittal package, including:

   A. February 11, 2015 letter from Dr. Barry R. Wallerstein, SCAQMD Executive Officer, to Mr. Richard Corey, ARB Executive Officer,
   B. Approved letter from Dr. Wallerstein to the SCAQMD Board on the PM2.5 Plan Supplement,
   C. Governing Board Resolution 15-3 adopting the PM2.5 Plan Supplement,
   D. Final PM2.5 Plan Supplement,
   E. CEQA Notice of Exemption, February 6, 2015,
   F. Proof of Publication for Notices of Public Hearings,
   G. February 5, 2015 comment letter to SCAQMD on the PM2.5 Plan Supplement, and
   H. Minutes from the SCAQMD Governing Board Meeting addressing public comments on the PM2.5 Plan Supplement.

II. ARB Resolution 15-2 adopting the PM2.5 Plan Supplement as a revision to the SIP for the South Coast Air Basin,

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: http://www.arb.ca.gov.
III. ARB Staff Report, **2015 update to the South Coast Air Basin 24-hour PM2.5 plan**, IV. ARB Public notice evidence.

The PM2.5 Plan Supplement includes on-road motor vehicle emission budgets for the year 2015. To ensure that any future updates to these budgets are used expeditiously in the conformity process, we request that U.S. EPA allow budgets to be replaced upon a finding of adequacy. To accomplish this, we ask U.S. EPA to limit its approval of the budgets submitted today to last only until the effective date of future U.S. EPA adequacy findings for replacement budgets. We anticipate Board action on new budgets as part of the 2016 SIP process to address the 2012 PM2.5 standard in July 2016.

Without the ability to replace the applicable emissions budgets with submitted budgets found adequate using the budget adequacy process, the benefits of using the updated data may not be realized for a year or more after the SIPs are submitted, due to the SIP approval process. We appreciate U.S. EPA’s willingness to work with us in our efforts to utilize motor vehicle emission budgets based on the most up-to-date, accurate data as soon as possible upon availability.

ARB is committed to working with U.S. EPA staff to provide any additional clarifying information needed. If you have any questions, please call Mr. Kurt Karperos, Deputy Executive Officer, at (916) 322-2739, or have your staff contact Ms. Karen Magliano, Chief, Air Quality Planning and Science Division, at (916) 322-7137.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Richard W. Corey
Executive Officer

Enclosure

cc: See next page.
cc: (with Board Resolution 15-2 only)

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