May 4, 2004

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

Dear Mr. Nastri:

Air Resources Board (ARB or Board) hereby submits for approval to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) the 2004 revisions to the Southeast Desert Modified Air Quality Maintenance Area (Southeast Desert) portion of the California State Implementation Plan (SIP) for the federal one-hour ozone standard. As requested in our April 13, 2004 parallel processing submittal for this plan, we ask that U.S. EPA make an expeditious finding on the adequacy of the motor vehicle emissions budgets. This finding is needed before June 8, 2004 to support a new transportation conformity determination for the region covered by the Southern California Association of Governments.

Background The Southeast Desert nonattainment area includes portions of three regions under the jurisdiction of separate local air agencies. Each of these air agencies has approved proposed revisions to the ozone attainment and progress demonstrations as follows:

- The South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast District), which has jurisdiction over the Riverside County portion of the Southeast Desert (otherwise known as Coachella Valley), adopted its plan on August 1, 2003, and transmitted it to ARB on August 7, 2003. The South Coast District also adopted the Coachella Valley portion of the Southeast Desert motor vehicle emissions budget on November 7, 2003, and transmitted it to ARB on November 19, 2003.

- The Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District (Antelope Valley District), which has jurisdiction over the Los Angeles County portion of the Southeast Desert (otherwise known as Antelope Valley), adopted its plan on April 20, 2004, and transmitted it to ARB on April 29, 2004.
• The Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District (Mojave Desert District), which has jurisdiction over the San Bernardino County portion of the Southeast Desert (otherwise known as Mojave Desert), adopted its plan on April 26, 2004, and transmitted it to ARB on April 29, 2004.

The adopted Antelope Valley, Coachella Valley and Mojave Desert plans meet applicable federal requirements. The attainment demonstration modeling covered a domain of 80,000 square miles, including all of the Southeast Desert and its primary upwind transport contributor, the South Coast Air Basin. The modeling shows that the Southeast Desert will attain the one-hour ozone standard by 2007, based primarily on statewide and South Coast controls. In addition, the plan shows sufficient ozone precursor reductions within the Southeast Desert nonattainment area boundaries to meet rate-of-progress requirements in 2005 and 2007.

Enclosures  This package consists of the following documents:

1. Antelope Valley

   April 29, 2004 e-mail from Ms. Karen Nowak, Antelope Valley Deputy District Counsel, to ARB, transmitting the April 20, 2004 Antelope Valley District Ozone Attainment Plan adoption package, including the following materials:

   B) District Board Resolution 04-05 approving and adopting the 2004 Antelope Valley Plan.
   C) Notice of Exemption under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).
   E) Written comments on the 2004 Plan.

2. Coachella Valley

   August 7, 2003 letter from Dr. Barry R. Wallerstein, Executive Officer, South Coast District, transmitting to ARB the August 2003 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP) adoption package, including the following materials related to Coachella Valley:

   A) AQMP Chapter 8 “Future Air Quality – Desert Nonattainment Areas”.
   B) Chapter 3, “Revision to the 1997 Ozone Attainment Demonstration Plan” of Appendix V, “Modeling and Attainment Demonstrations,” to the AQMP.
3. Mojave Desert

April 29, 2004 e-mail from Ms. Karen Nowak, Mojave Desert Deputy District Counsel, to ARB, transmitting the April 26, 2004 Mojave Desert District Ozone Attainment Plan adoption package, including the following materials:

B) District Board Resolution 04-01 approving and adopting the 2004 Mojave Desert Plan.
C) CEQA Notice of Exemption.
E) Written comments on the 2004 Plan.

4. SIP Completeness Checklist for the Southeast Desert SIP.

If you have any questions, please call Ms. Lynn Terry, Deputy Executive Officer, at (916) 322-2739, or have your staff contact Ms. Cynthia Marvin, Chief, Air Quality and Transportation Planning Branch, at (916) 322-7236.

Sincerely,

/S/ Lynn Terry for Catherine Witherspoon

Catherine Witherspoon
Executive Officer

Enclosures

cc: See next page.
cc:  (With Executive Order only)

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