UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

May 21, 2010

Benjamin H. Grumbles, Director
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
1110 W. Washington St.
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: PM_{10} National Ambient Air Quality Standard in Phoenix
Request for Concurrence for Treatment as "Exceptional Events"

Dear Mr. Grumbles:

This letter responds to the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) submittals regarding exceedances of the PM_{10} National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) at the W. 43rd Ave. monitor in Phoenix on the following days in 2008: March 14, April 30, May 21, and June 4. ADEQ has requested that EPA exclude these exceedances from consideration when determining whether the Phoenix area is on track to comply with the PM10 NAAQS by the end of 2010.

Our response to ADEQ's request is governed by the "Treatment of Data Influenced by Exceptional Events" rule (72 FR 13560, March 22, 2007). After careful consideration of the information provided, we have decided to disapprove ADEQ's request to treat these exceedances as due to exceptional events. The basis for our decision is set forth in the enclosed technical support document.

If you have any questions or wish to discuss this matter further, please have your staff contact Deborah Jordan, Director of the Air Division at (415) 947-8715.

Sincerely,

Jared Blumenfeld
Regional Administrator

Enclosures

cc: Dennis Smith, Executive Director, Maricopa Association of Governments
Max Porter, Acting Director, Air Quality, Department, Maricopa County
Philip McNeely, Environmental Programs Manager, City of Phoenix
Ira Domsky, Acting Air Quality Division Director, ADEQ

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