Janet Napolitano
Governor

ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

1110 West Washington Street • Phoenix, Arizona 85007
(602) 771-2300 • www.adeq.state.az.us

Stephen A. Owens
Director

Delivered by telefax to: 415-947-3588

February 13, 2004

Wayne Nastri, Regional Administrator
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX
ORA1
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

Via facsimile and express mail

Re: Arizona's 8-Hour Ozone Area Designation Recommendations

Dear Mr. Nastri:

I am following up on your letter of December 3, 2004, to Governor Napolitano in which you stated that EPA intends to modify Arizona's July 11, 2003, recommendation on boundaries for the metro Phoenix eight –hour ozone nonattainment area to include the portion of Area A in Pinal County. In that letter, you offered to consider any additional information about the area in question.

At the outset, let me reiterate that Arizona continues to strongly believe that there is no real justification for including any part of Pinal County in the eight-hour ozone nonattainment area. In addition to the data and analysis contained ADEQ's July 22, 2003, technical submittal and additional analyses and data submitted in September 2003, we believe several factors identified in the memorandum by John Seitz dated March 28, 2000, support exclusion of any part of Pinal County from the nonattainment boundary, including Area A. First, no monitor in Pinal County has recorded a violation of the 8-hour standard (Factors 3 and 9). Second, all of the control measures in the Area A part of Pinal County will remain in force and contribute emission reductions (Factor 10). Third, the jurisdictional boundary of Pinal County should be honored because the creation of a multi-county nonattainment area would greatly complicate air quality and transportation planning. The attachment to this letter addresses these factors and others.

To the extent that EPA continues to insist that a portion of Pinal County be included in the nontainment boundary, it is our view that the area should be limited to the Pinal County portion of the incorporated City of Apache Junction (Township 1 North, Range 8 East and Sections 1 through 12 of Township 1 South, Range 8 East). There is no basis for including any of the remaining Pinal County portion of Area A in the nonattainment boundary. The distinction between Apache Junction and the remainder of the Pinal County portion of Area A is outlined in the attachment to this letter.

We appreciate your consideration of this latest analysis. If you have questions or need more information, please contact Nancy Wrona, Director of the Air Quality Division or Ira Domsky, Deputy Division Director, at (602) 771-2308.

Sincerely,

Stephen A. Owens
Director

Enclosure

Copy to: Colleen McKaughan

DATE 2/17/04			
ACTION (✓)		COPIED (✓)	
	EA	X	RA
	DRA	X	DRA
X	AIR		AIR
	OCGR		[illegible]
	ORC		[illegible]
	OSPEI		OSPEI
	PMD		PMD
	# FUND		# FUND
	WASTE		WASTE
	WATER		WATER
	X-MEDIA		X-MEDIA

Factors Affecting Inclusion of a Portion of Pinal County in the Metro Phoenix 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Boundary

Population Density and Degree of Urbanization

- The City of Apache Junction is the only incorporated area within the Pinal County portion of Area A.
- The vast majority of residential development in the Pinal County portion of Area A is within the City's boundaries.
- Apache Junction is the largest city in Pinal County, with a 2000 U.S. Census population of 31,814, which constituted 63% of the population of the Pinal County portion of Area A.
- The City shares a common boundary with the City of Mesa, the third largest city in the State.
- Incorporated Apache Junction is the only portion of the Pinal County portion of Area A that is urbanized.

Traffic and Commuting Patterns

- All major east/west arterials and Highway U.S. 60, a major Valley freeway, traverse the City of Apache Junction. No similar roadway network serves the balance of the Pinal County portion of Area A.
- Major employment centers are located in Maricopa County, which is already included in the Governor's recommendation and an attractive job market for Apache Junction residents. An analysis of 2000 U.S. Census data estimates that 72% of the Area A residents who work outside Pinal County resided in the City of Apache Junction.

- The MAG *Regional Freeway Bottleneck Study*[*] (May 7, 2002) documents the morning commute on U.S. Route 60 from east to west (from Apache Junction into Maricopa County) and evening commute from the west to east as being dominant traffic patterns other than into other parts of Area A in Pinal County:

		Percent of Daily Traffic Volume at Pinal County line	Percent of Daily Traffic Volume in Mesa-Tempe
Peak morning traffic volume	West-bound	9.3%	6.5 – 7.2%
	East-bound	4.9%	5.4 - 6.6%
Peak evening traffic volume	West-bound	5.7%	5.5 - 7.5%
	East-bound	8.2%	6.9 – 7.7%

Expected Growth

- The City of Apache Junction Web site cites an independent analysis that found that an estimated 34.5 families move to the City each week. The same site discusses the development of a 50-acre industrial park within the City limits.

- The remainder of the Pinal County portion of Area A is largely undeveloped. While scattered residential development is occurring, it does not support commercial or industrial development.

- Approximately half of the Pinal County portion of Area A is State Trust Land. These areas will not be developed during the initial eight-hour ozone planning period due to outstanding issues and lack of community consensus on future approaches to flood control. Only after these flood control issues are resolved can a transportation plan be developed for the area.

[*] This document was included as Appendix 12 of the July 22, 2003, technical support document to the Governor's recommendation of July 11, 2003.

Location of Emissions Sources

- Activities within the City of Apache Junction constitute the largest source of emissions of ozone precursors in the Pinal County portion of Area A, which is otherwise agricultural, undeveloped or sparsely developed.

- All major roadways in the Pinal County portion of Area A are in or traverse the City of Apache Junction.

- The only projected site for industrial development in the Pinal County portion of Area A is located in Apache Junction.

Jurisdictional Boundaries

- A portion of the City of Apache Junction is contained within Maricopa County.

- The City of Apache Junction is a member of both the Maricopa Association of Governments and the Central Arizona Association of Governments.

- The incorporated City of Apache Junction is distinct from the rest of the Area A portion of Pinal County, and the distinct jurisdictional boundary between Apache Junction and the remainder of Area A in Pinal County should be honored in establishing the eight-hour ozone nonattainment boundary.