



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

AUG 22 2017

OFFICE OF THE  
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

The Honorable Lolo Matalasi Moliga  
Governor of American Samoa  
Executive Office Building  
Pago Pago, American Samoa 96799

Dear Governor Moliga:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) intended designations for American Samoa for the 2010 Primary National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS) for sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>). The designations for this NAAQS are an important part of the EPA's commitment to a clean, healthy environment.

On July 25, 2013, the EPA designated certain areas in 16 states as nonattainment, but did not at that time designate other areas. Additional areas were designated on June 30, 2016, and November 29, 2016. No areas in American Samoa were designated in these previous actions. Pursuant to a March 2, 2015, court-ordered schedule,<sup>1</sup> the agency must complete the remaining SO<sub>2</sub> designations by two specific deadlines: December 31, 2017, and December 31, 2020. Accordingly, pursuant to section 107(d)(1)(B)(ii) of the Clean Air Act, this letter is to notify you of the EPA's assessment for all areas in American Samoa.

If you or your staff have additional information that the EPA should consider prior to finalizing the designations, please submit it as soon as possible but no later than October 23, 2017. You may submit additional information by sending it to the EPA's public docket for these designations, EPA-HQ-OAR-2017-0003, located at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov), and sending a copy to EPA Region 9. The EPA also will publish a notice in the *Federal Register* announcing a 30-day comment period for the public to provide input on the EPA's intended designations.

There are no areas in American Samoa that were required to be characterized by modeling or monitoring, and the EPA does not have information that suggests any areas in American Samoa may not be meeting the NAAQS or contributing to air quality in a nearby area that does not meet the NAAQS. After carefully considering all available information, we intend to designate all of American Samoa as one unclassifiable/attainment area.

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<sup>1</sup> *Sierra Club v. McCarthy*, No. 3-13-cv-3953 (SI) (N.D. Cal. Mar. 2, 2015).

The enclosure to this letter provides the information that supports the intended designation decision for American Samoa.<sup>2</sup>

The EPA will promulgate the final designations for the areas identified in this letter by December 31, 2017. We share your goal to provide cleaner air for residents of American Samoa. We look forward to a continued dialogue with you and your staff as we work together to complete the area designations and implement the 2010 primary SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS. For additional information regarding designations under the SO<sub>2</sub> NAAQS, please visit our website at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call me, or have your staff contact Meredith Kurpius of my staff at (415) 947-4534 and [kurpius.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:kurpius.meredith@epa.gov).

Sincerely,

  
for Alexis Strauss  
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Ameko Pato, Director, American Samoa Environmental Protection Agency

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<sup>2</sup> The enclosure is Chapter 2 of the Technical Support Document for the designations the EPA plans to complete by December 31, 2017, that addresses American Samoa. The Technical Support Document is also available at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>