



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 David Y. Ige  
Governor  
State of Hawaii  
Executive Chambers  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Governor Ige:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) intended designations for certain areas in Hawaii 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. These intended designations are a response to designations-related recommendations and information your state submitted in a letter dated May 19, 2011, and in several subsequent submittals.<sup>1</sup>

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. In Hawaii, the following area was designated in these previous actions: Hawaii County. Pursuant to a March 2, 2015, court-ordered schedule,<sup>2</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 of your state's recommended designations for all remaining undesignated areas in Hawaii except areas that are associated with sources for which Hawaii elected to install and begin operating a new SO<sub>2</sub> monitoring network.

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.

Hawaii has recommended a designation of unclassifiable for the entire state. After carefully considering Hawaii's recommendation and all available information, we intend to designate as unclassifiable/attainment all remaining areas of Hawaii that were not required to be characterized and

<sup>1</sup> The Hawaii Department of Health also provided information relevant to these designations in letters and other correspondence dated August 24, 2015, August 27, 2015, and May 9, 2016.

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

for which the EPA does not have information that suggests the area may not be meeting the NAAQS or contributing to air quality in a nearby area that does not meet the NAAQS. Enclosure 1 to this letter provides the information that supports the intended designation decisions for these areas in Hawaii.<sup>3</sup> A list of these remaining areas is included in the last section of the enclosure.

The EPA will promulgate the final designations for the areas identified in this letter by December 31, 2017. We are prepared to work with you to resolve any disagreements with respect to the available information or information gaps. We are then required to designate all other remaining undesignated areas in Hawaii by December 31, 2020, consistent with the prescribed timing of the court order.

We share your goal to provide cleaner air for citizens in your state. 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 at (415) 947-4534 or [kurpius.meredith@epa.gov](mailto:kurpius.meredith@epa.gov).

Sincerely,



 Alexis Strauss  
Acting Regional Administrator

Enclosure

cc: Virginia Pressler, Director, Hawaii Department of Health  
Keith Kawaoka, Deputy Director for Environmental Health, HDOH (by email)  
Marianne Fuji Rossio, Clean Air Branch, HDOH (by email)

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<sup>3</sup> Enclosure 1 is Chapter 2 of the Technical Support Document for the designations the EPA plans to complete by December 31, 2017, that addresses areas in Hawaii. The Technical Support Document is also available at <https://www.epa.gov/sulfur-dioxide-designations>.