



Northern Service Center  
One Capitol Mall, Suite 500  
Sacramento, California 95814

September 10, 2004

Tom Dumas  
Chief  
Office of Intermodal Planning  
Department of Transportation  
P.O. Box 2048  
Stockton, California 95201

RE: Mitigated Negative Declaration  
Calaveras Big Trees State Park  
Visitor Center Project

Dear Mr. Dumas:

Thank you for your comments during the public review period for the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), Visitor Center Project at Calaveras Big Trees State Park. Your support for this project is appreciated and it is hoped that the following response will address your concerns regarding this project.

Your comment indicated that Cal Trans recommends that the PM<sub>2.5</sub>, Fine Particulate Matter, standards be discussed under the Air Quality section for the final document and because of the changing air quality standards, you recommended that this document be submitted to the Air Resources Board for review.

The Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration has been distributed to the Air Resources Board for review.

The following changes will be made to the Final MND:

Chapter 3, Page 22, Environmental Setting, paragraph 3 will be revised to read:

... the county is in non-attainment with California standards for ozone and particulate matter (PM<sub>10</sub> – or particles with an aerodynamic diameter of 10 microns or less *and* PM<sub>2.5</sub> – particles with an aerodynamic diameter of less than 2.5 microns). An area is designated in non-attainment if there was at least one violation of a State standard for that pollutant within the area boundaries. *In June 2002, the Air Resources Board (ARB) established a new State annual standard for particulate matter with a diameter of 2.5 microns or less (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and lowered the level of the existing State annual standard for*

*particulate matter with a diameter of 10 microns and smaller (PM<sub>10</sub>). By the end of 2004, EPA will finalize the designations for the PM<sub>2.5</sub> standards. Once nonattainment designations take effect, the state and local governments will have three years to develop implementation plans designed to meet the standards by reducing air pollutant emissions contributing to fine particle concentrations.*

Chapter 3, Page 22, Environmental Setting, line added to Calaveras County Air Quality Designations:

	<b>2002 State Levels</b>	<b>2002 Federal Levels</b>
Particulate Matter 2.5 (2003)	Unclassified	Unclassified/Attainment

Chapter 6, page 76, References, Air Quality, references added:

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Fine Particulate (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) Designations.  
<http://www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/regions/region9t.htm>

*Draft Procedure for Designating an Area with Respect to the State Particulate Matter Standards (PM<sub>10</sub> and PM<sub>2.5</sub>); internet address:*  
<http://www.arb.ca.gov/desig/desig03/desig03pmprotocol.pdf>

Thank you again for your comments.

Sincerely,

Patricia DuMont  
Environmental Coordinator  
Northern Service Center  
California Department of Parks and Recreation