

LETTER 8 - Dave Mitchell, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Response to Comment 8-1

The comment is noted for the record. The commentator's support for the air quality impact analysis and proposed air emissions controls presented in the PEIR is noted.

Response to Comment 8-2

The designation of the Federal ozone standards attainment status of the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin was changed from "serious" to "severe" in October 2001. It is noted for the record that this change in designation occurred after the 7 May 2001 release of the Draft PEIR. Under this designation, the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin is required to meet Federal ozone standards by 2005. Failure to meet the attainment deadline would result in substantial fee provisions for new sources (\$5,000 per ton of volatile organic compounds or oxides of nitrogen) and potential sanctions, including prohibition of approval of Federal grants for transportation improvement projects. Concerned with the potential to meet the attainment deadline, the SJVUAPCD has recently considered the possibility of requesting that the Federal government reclassify the air basin from a "severe" to an "extreme" designation. The reclassification would extend the attainment deadline to 2006. The County supports the SJVUAPCD efforts in meeting attainment goals.

Response to Comment 8-3

In Response to the Comment, the text of the last paragraph on page 4.2-10 of the Draft PEIR has been modified.