



**Environmental Protection Agency plans to strip federal air quality protection from Mono Lake**

by Geoffrey McQuillin

In the last days of December, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) quietly proposed a new set of Clean Air Act regulations that quite literally leave Mono Lake in the dust.

The newly proposed regulations will abandon existing federal air standards that govern the toxic air emissions caused by winter storms caused by the dust that they'll blow in. Instead, the EPA is proposing to eliminate regulation of winter storms—off the exposed bed of Mono Lake. Several of EPA's other proposals to "abandon" regulations in rural areas across the country are targeting the Mono Basin.

Local dust storms have been a health hazard at Mono Lake since massive winter diversions from Mono Lake's tributary streams caused the lake to drop, exposing hundreds of acres of dry, dusty bedload. In fact, the exposed bed is one of the greatest single sources of dust particles in the United States. It comes from the winter air pollution in Mono Lake that can also contain arsenic and other toxics. Mono Lake dust storms have been found to contain high concentrations of up to 16,000  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , vastly exceeding the current standard of 1.9  $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ .

There are serious concerns beyond public health as well. The new regulations would weaken the protections of the State Water Board decisions that protect Mono Lake. One of the major reasons the board put the road to health is that storms upstream were to the north and east, entering the lake via lakeshore bays, not directly. This is strong support for the regulation by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power that winter diversions federal air pollution standards, could Mono Lake be vulnerable to excessive water diversions again? Let's not end up there!

The EPA, usually respected as a public health agency, appears to be playing a game of politics. In fact, the EPA's

If the EPA gets its way, these air quality monitors will just gather dust.

**Speak up for Mono Lake before April 17!**

just urban areas.

2. The EPA must use the PM 2.5 rule to regulate the PM 10 rule, in particular the exposed bed of Mono Lake. Appropriate for protection of the lake.

Other groups are somewhat less than best. Mono Lake supporters, like the Mono Lake Committee and Mono Lake specifically. By Action Alert will be further details available at [www.mono.org](#).

**Y**ou can submit comments on air quality rules or for an Action Alert to the EPA and a message to your own. You can also visit (760) 647-4595 for more details.

For more details (Phone number)

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**Committee supports EPA's proposal to abandon air quality monitors in the Great Basin**

by Frances Spivy-Weber

**Yes on Proposition 10**

On California's November Clean Water, Parks & Conservation Bond, Proposition 10 provides \$1 billion for state parks, recreation protection and Mono Lake specifically. We hope you will support the bond.

Here are some high rivers and Lake Tahoe grants for water quality and Drinking Water Act water management and enforcement. The bond also changes inspection of wildlife and forest management agencies and local communities, a port for resource centers.

For more details (Phone number)

**Committee stands in opposition to the EPA's proposal to abandon air quality monitors in the Great Basin**

by Geoffrey McQuillin

**A**fter the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reviews public comments on proposed to eliminate air quality health standards for winter dust storms on behalf of Mono Lake if necessary, the hands of the EPA, with a final decision expected in April.

At issue are the national health standards for the massive dust storms the bed of Mono Lake, which current standards by 70 times and the EPA has proposed to eliminate entirely.

Many thanks go Mono Lake Committee submitted over 2,800 comment expressing concern about the proposed to eliminate air quality health standards for winter dust storms on behalf of Mono Lake. The public comment has been analyzed, laying the ground work needed to respond to the EPA's

**Mono Lake supporters to the EPA: Keep our air clean!**

page opposition to the EPA rule change

by Geoffrey McQuillin

**A**ll the dust and debris, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) quietly proposes to abandon dust air health standards for Mono Lake. The public comment has been analyzed, laying the ground work needed to respond to the EPA's

**Air quality victory! Mono Lake supporters change planned federal policy**

by Geoffrey McQuillin

**W**ith the publication of the following work in the Federal Register, Mono Lake supporters' battle to keep winter dust storms subject to statutory standards for particulate pollution is ready to begin in earnest. The public comment period is now open.

To conclude, here fall the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) rules that would have stripped Mono Lake of its health standards!

Earlier in 2006, the EPA had proposed dust storm with health standards "PM10 particulate" in the Mono Basin and most areas across the country. As a result, the toxic dust that enters the lake via the exposed bed of Mono Lake would have been left unregulated. The dust degrades human health, and one of the reasons for naming the level of Mono Lake is because it is so toxic.

Thanks to Mono Lake supporters, the EPA board laid and dropped the PM10 particulate proposal. The dust storm remains subject to federal regulation. Advocates remained over the winter to ensure that the public comment period on Mono Lake, local residents and visitors. The Committee initiated accelerated 22-page analysis, laying the groundwork for the action of the EPA's public comment Letter of comment that ensure no protected Mono Lake from a major threat.

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