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12		Case No: 4:13-cv-02809-YGR
13	SIERRA CLUB, AMERICAN LUNG ASSOCIATION, ENVIROMENTAL DEFENSE	
14	FUND, and NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE COUNCIL	NOTICE OF MOTION AND MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT
15	Plaintiffs,	AND
16	V.	MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND
17	UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY; GINA McCARTHY, in	AUTHORITIES IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS' MOTION FOR SUMMAR'
18	her official capacity as Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency,	JUDGMENT
	Defendants.	Date: April 8, 2014 Time: 2:00 p.m.
19	Defendants.	Place: Courtroom 5, 2 <sup>nd</sup> Fl.
20		Judge: Hon. Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers
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PLS' MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT – 4:13-cv-2809-YGR

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## NOTICE OF MOTION

Please take notice that the following Motion for Summary Judgment will be heard by the Honorable Yvonne Gonzalez Rogers, United States District Judge, on April 1, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. in Courtroom 5, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Ronald V. Dellums Federal Building, 1301 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612.

# MOTION FOR SUMMARY JUDGMENT

Plaintiffs Sierra Club, American Lung Association, Environmental Defense Fund, and the Natural Resources Defense Council, hereby move for summary judgment pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 56, Local Rule 56, and Judge Rogers' Standing Order in Civil Cases.

Plaintiffs are entitled to summary judgment as a matter of law because Defendants, United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"), and Gina McCarthy, Administrator, have failed to fulfill their duty under 42 U.S.C. § 7409(d)(1) to review the national ambient air quality standards for ozone within five years of their last promulgation date, March 12, 2008.

Accordingly, Plaintiffs respectfully request that this Court grant their Motion for Summary Judgment and order EPA to complete its long-overdue review of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone by signing a notice of proposed rulemaking by December 1, 2014 and a final rulemaking by October 1, 2015.

In support of this Motion, Plaintiffs submit a Memorandum of Points and Authorities, accompanying Declarations and Exhibits, a Supporting Separate Statement, and a Proposed Order.

DATED: January 21, 2014 Respectfully submitted,

> /s/ Irene V. Gutierrez PAUL R. CORT IRENE V. GUTIERREZ

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INTRODUCTION

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I.

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#### II. **BACKGROUND**

**Ozone Pollution and Effects** A.

Ground-level ozone, commonly referred to as smog, is a corrosive air pollutant that is harmful to humans and other living organisms. It forms when precursor pollutants, volatile organic compounds ("VOC") react with nitrogen oxides ("NOx") in the presence of heat and sunlight.

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### MEMORANDUM OF POINTS AND AUTHORITIES

Plaintiffs the Sierra Club, American Lung Association, Environmental Defense Fund and Natural Resources Defense Council ("Plaintiffs") seek to compel the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and its Administrator Gina McCarthy, to take actions required by the Clean Air Act to protect the public from the effects of ozone pollution. Specifically, this lawsuit seeks to compel EPA to complete its long-overdue mandatory review of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone by no later than October 1, 2015.

Ozone pollution poses grave risks to public health, and exposure to ozone pollution is responsible for a host of respiratory and cardiovascular conditions, reproductive and developmental health effects, increases in hospital and emergency room visits, and even premature deaths.

EPA last promulgated national ambient air quality standards for ozone on March 12, 2008. Under the timeline mandated by the Clean Air Act, EPA should have completed its review of these standards by March 12, 2013. The scientific community, and even EPA itself, have recognized that the 2008 standards are inadequate to protect public health, and that revision of these standards is needed.

Because of the urgency of the health threat from ozone pollution, Plaintiffs now move for summary judgment on their claim pursuant to Rule 56 of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure.<sup>1</sup> EPA's failure to act constitutes an ongoing violation of the Clean Air Act, and Plaintiffs are entitled to an injunction ordering EPA to perform its non-discretionary duty to review the national ambient air quality standards for ozone.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Rule 56 provides that "[u]nless a different time is set by local rule or the court orders otherwise, a party may file a motion for summary judgment at any time until 30 days after the close of all discovery." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(b).

United States Environmental Protection Agency, EPA-452/P-12-002, Policy Assessment for the Review of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards, First External Review Draft (August 2012)("Policy Assessment") at 1-10, attached as Exhibit 1 to Plaintiffs' Request for Judicial Notice ("Plaintiffs' RJN"); see also United States Environmental Protection Agency, Final Integrated Science Assessment (Feb. 2013), http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naags/standards/ozone/ <u>s\_o3\_2008\_isa.html</u>. These precursor pollutants originate from a wide variety of sources, but the main producers are large industrial sources, mobile sources such as cars and trucks, and the fossil-fueled generation of electric power. See 75 Fed. Reg. 2938, 2941 (Jan. 19, 2010). Ozone pollution is present in urban and rural areas, and regional concentrations can vary based on changing weather patterns, as well as variations in an area's geography and topography. Policy Assessment at 1-11 to 1-12.

Exposure to ozone causes a number of acute and chronic health effects. Following its own review of available scientific evidence, EPA has concluded that there is a direct connection between exposure to ozone and respiratory health effects, cardiovascular effects, central nervous system effects, reproductive and developmental effects, as well as an increase in premature mortality. Policy Assessment at 2-3 to 2-4.

Ozone exposure impairs lung function, aggravates asthma, and has been linked with increases in school absences, emergency department visits, and hospital admissions. *See* Policy Assessment at 2-4 to 2-5, 2-19, 2-35, 2-47 to 2-48. Studies have shown that healthy individuals exposed on a short-term basis to ozone levels as low as 0.060 parts per million ("ppm") will experience a significant decrease in lung function and an increase in lung inflammation. *Id.* at 2-8, 2-13. Long-term ozone exposure has also been linked to cardiovascular diseases, reproductive and developmental health effects, and central nervous system effects. *Id.* at 2-48. Exposure to ozone has also been correlated with increased risk of death for those suffering from respiratory conditions. *Id.* at 2-25, 2-27. According to EPA's preliminary analysis, some 15,000 to 18,000 deaths per year can be attributed to ozone pollution. *Id.* at 3-12.

Certain groups are especially vulnerable to ozone exposure, such as those with existing lung diseases, children, the elderly, and outdoor workers and athletes. *See* Policy Assessment at 2-10 to

2-11. These vulnerable groups constitute a significant portion of the population, and consequently, the proper and timely review of the health impacts of ozone has significant implications for millions of people throughout the United States. For example, there are some 25 million individuals in the United States suffering from asthma. *Id.* at 2-71. There are approximately 74 million individuals under the age of 18 (24% of the U.S. population), and 40 million individuals who are 65 years of age or older (13% of the U.S. population). *Id.* Some 16.8 million individuals (11.7% of the employed population) work outside at least one day a week. *Id.* at 2-72.

Ozone pollution has also been tied to negative impacts on vegetation growth, agricultural yields, ecosystem health, and climate effects such as reduced carbon sequestration. Policy Assessment 5-2 to 5-3.

# B. The Clean Air Act's Requirements for National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

The Clean Air Act establishes a comprehensive plan "to protect and enhance the quality of the Nation's air resources so as to promote the public health and welfare and the productive capacity of its population." 42 U.S.C. § 7401(b)(1).

As one of its central features, the Act requires the Administrator to set national ambient air quality standards for certain air pollutants. 42 U.S.C. § 7409(a). Under the Act, the Administrator must set primary standards for those pollutants at levels that will protect the public health with an adequate margin of safety, and secondary standards at levels that will "protect the public welfare from any known or anticipated adverse effects associated with the presence of those pollutants in the ambient air." *Id.* §§ 7409(b)(1), (2).

The Clean Air Act imposes on EPA a non-discretionary duty to review national ambient air quality standards every five years and "make such revisions in such criteria and standards and promulgate such new standards as may be appropriate . . . ." 42 U.S.C. § 7409(d)(1).

# C. Recent History of EPA Review of Ozone Standards.

EPA last promulgated national ambient air quality standards for ozone on March 12, 2008. See 73 Fed. Reg. 16436 (Mar. 27, 2008). At that time, EPA set the primary standard at 0.075 ppm (averaged over eight hours) and made the secondary standard identical to the primary standard. *Id.* 

Many within the scientific community have stated that these standards are insufficient to protect public health. In fact, shortly after these regulations were promulgated, EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee ("CASAC") sent EPA a letter expressing its strong disagreement with EPA's primary and secondary ozone standards, which it contended failed to provide an adequate margin of safety, and were not supported by the best available science. *See* 75 Fed Reg. 2938, 2943 (Jan. 19, 2010). Members of the CASAC Ozone Review Panel "unanimously recommended decreasing the primary standard to within the range of 0.060-0.070 parts per million." Letter from Dr. Rogene Henderson, Chair, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, to Stephen Johnson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Apr. 7, 2008)("2008 Henderson Letter"), attached as Exhibit 2 to Plaintiffs' RJN. It was CASAC's "consensus scientific opinion that [the Administrator's] decision to set the primary ozone standard above this range fails to satisfy the explicit stipulations of the Clean Air Act that [EPA] ensure an adequate margin of safety for all individuals, including sensitive populations." *Id.* CASAC recommended adopting a secondary standard distinct from the primary standard, calculated by taking into account cumulative effects of ozone, as well as distinct seasonal concentrations of ozone. *Id.* 

In 2010, EPA proposed to revise the national ozone standards to address the deficiencies identified by EPA's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, as well as to incorporate information from recent scientific studies. 75 Fed. Reg. at 2993. The EPA Administrator determined that the 2008 primary ozone standard of 0.075 ppm was "not sufficient to provide protection with an adequate margin of safety." *Id.* at 2996. EPA proposed revising the primary ozone standard to within a range of 0.060 to 0.070 ppm. *Id.* at 2998. EPA also proposed that the secondary ozone standard should be set separately from the primary standard, according to a "cumulative, seasonal standard." *Id.* at 2999.

In evaluating the effects of setting the primary ozone standard in the range of 0.060 to 0.070 ppm, EPA estimated that the incidence of asthma attacks, heart attacks, hospital and emergency room visits could be greatly reduced. United States Environmental Protection Agency, January 2010 Proposal to Revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ground Level Ozone: General Overview at 17 (Jan. 2010), attached as Exhibit 7 to Plaintiffs' RJN. It estimated that if the standard

was set to 0.070 ppm, some 1,500 to 4,300 premature deaths would be avoided annually once the nation met that standard, and at 0.060 ppm, some 4,000 to 12,000 deaths would be avoided. *Id.* at 17.

These revisions were whole-heartedly supported by CASAC based on "the large body of data and risk analyses demonstrating that retention of the current standard would leave large numbers of individuals at risk for respiratory effects and/or other significant health impacts including asthma exacerbations, emergency room visits, hospital admissions and mortality." Letter from Dr. Jonathan M. Samet, Chair, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, to Lisa P. Jackson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Feb. 19, 2010), attached as Exhibit 3 to Plaintiffs' RJN; *see also* Letter from Dr. Jonathan Samet, Chair, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, to Lisa Jackson, Administrator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Mar. 30, 2011), attached as Exhibit 6 to Plaintiffs' RJN (supporting standard between 0.060 ppm and 0.070 ppm to "be confident of public health benefits and additional protection for susceptible groups").

Despite the Administrator's conclusion that the 2008 ozone standards were inadequate to protect public health and welfare, in 2011, the President directed EPA to set aside the 2010 proposed rule, and withhold completing its review of the 2008 standards until 2013 – the five-year deadline for completing review of the national ambient air quality standards under 42 U.S.C. § 7409(d)(1). Statement by the President on the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Sept. 2, 2011), attached as Exhibit 4 to Plaintiffs' RJN.

As a result of the President's decision, EPA announced a new plan for completing the review of the 2008 ozone standards. *See* United States Environmental Protection Agency, EPA 452/R-11-006, Integrated Review Plan for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (April 2011)("Integrated Review Plan") at 1-1, attached as Exhibit 5 to Plaintiffs' RJN. The 2011 Integrated Review Plan contained EPA's first adopted schedule for this review and a schedule that acknowledged that EPA could not meet the five-year deadline for completion, which was March 2013. *Id.* at 2-2. Instead, EPA stated it would issue a proposed rule-making in September 2013, and a final rulemaking in June 2014. *Id.* 

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In the intervening months, EPA missed most of the interim dates for key documents. In September 2012, EPA provided a new "Anticipated Schedule" that showed it planned to issue a proposed rule in December 2013 and a final rule in September 2014. *See* Environmental Protection Agency, Review of the Ozone NAAQS: Schedule and Process, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting, CASAC Ozone Panel (Sept. 11-13, 2012)("Ozone NAAQS Schedule 2012").

That second schedule is now woefully out of date. Not only did EPA fail to issue the proposed rule in December 2013, EPA has held no meetings of the CASAC panel reviewing the ozone standards since November 2012. EPA failed to issue revised versions of the Policy Assessment and the Risk Exposure Assessment that it had announced would be ready for public review in 2013. EPA did issue the final Integrated Science Assessment for Ozone and other Photochemical Oxidants in February 2013, three months later than promised. Ozone NAAQS Schedule 2012.

# D. EPA's Current Review Shows New Ozone Standards Are Still Necessary

In reviewing the most recent scientific evidence, EPA staff has made the preliminary conclusion that revisions to the current ozone standards are needed, given that serious health effects occur from ozone exposure at levels well below the current standards:

In looking broadly at the available evidence from controlled human exposure, epidemiologic, and animal toxicological studies, we note that the controlled human exposure studies have reported a variety of health effects, including lung function decrements, respiratory symptoms and pulmonary inflammation in healthy subjects, following exposures to [ozone] concentrations (i.e., [0.060-0.070~ppm]) below the level of the current [ozone] standard.

Policy Assessment at 4-28. EPA staff further found that:

[The] broad array of health effects reported following short-term exposures to [ozone] concentrations below those allowed by the current standard (i.e., respiratory effects and mortality), combined with the plausible linkages between these effects and the much larger body of epidemiologic and controlled human exposure evidence at higher [ozone] concentrations, supports the appropriateness of revising the current [ozone] standard in order to increase public health protection, particularly for people with asthma, children and other at-risk groups.

Policy Assessment at 4-30; *see also Id.* at 4-45. EPA has also made the preliminary conclusion that the current 8-hour secondary standard should be revised "so as to afford greater and more

appropriate public welfare protection by selecting a different form, averaging time and level than that of the primary standard." Policy Assessment at 7-19.

EPA's failure to complete its review of the 2008 ozone standards in a timely manner means that millions of people face continued, recognized risk of harm and even premature death because the existing standard fails to protect their health. Absent an order from this court, EPA is likely to continue its delay in completing the review.

### III. STANDARD OF REVIEW

The Clean Air Act authorizes "any person" to commence a civil action against the EPA Administrator where there is an alleged "failure to perform any act or duty . . . which is not discretionary with the Administrator." 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2). In such cases, district courts "shall have jurisdiction . . . to order the Administrator to perform such act or duty." *Id.* § 7604(a). In this case, the Court must resolve two key questions: (1) whether EPA is liable under the Clean Air Act for failing to perform a mandatory duty under the Act; and (2) if so, what is the appropriate remedy.

Summary judgment must be granted "if the movant shows that there is no genuine dispute as to any material fact and the movant is entitled to judgment as a matter of law." Fed. R. Civ. P. 56(a); see also Anderson v. Liberty Lobby, Inc., 477 U.S. 242, 247-48 (1986); Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Ry. Co. v. Brown & Bryant, Inc., 159 F.3d 358, 365 (9th Cir. 1998). The moving party bears the burden of demonstrating the absence of a genuine issue of material fact. Celotex Corp. v. Catrett, 477 U.S. 317, 322 (1986).

In this case, the only issue of fact is whether the EPA completed review of the ozone standards by the statutorily-mandated deadline. Should the Court find that EPA has failed to comply with such deadline, "[s]ummary judgment is appropriate where, as here, it remains only for the Court, acting in its discretion to fashion an equitable remedy." *Am. Lung Ass'n v. Browner*, 884 F.Supp. 345, 346 (D. Ariz. 1994)(*citing Sierra Club v. Ruckelshaus*, 602 F.Supp 892, 898 n.9 (N.D. Cal. 1984)).

In fashioning appropriate equitable relief, the Court should use its authority "to set enforceable deadlines" to obtain "expeditious compliance" with the Congressional deadlines that EPA has ignored. *Natural Res. Def. Council v. Train*, 510 F.2d 692, 705 (D.C. Cir. 1974). "The

court's injunction should serve like adrenalin, to heighten the response and to stimulate the fullest use of resources." *Id.* at 712. The standard for reviewing proposed timetables is not how long such rulemakings might take in the normal course, but what the agency is capable of achieving. The agency carries a "heavy burden" to demonstrate that more expeditious compliance is impossible or infeasible. Am. Lung Ass'n, 884 F.Supp. at 347 ("Excuses for delay must go beyond the general proposition that further study and analysis of materials will make final agency action better, because ... it is always easier to do something with more rather than less time."); see also Sierra Club v. Johnson, 444 F. Supp. 2d 46, 53, 58 (D.D.C. 2006) (noting "heavy burden" to demonstrate "impossibility"). As the *Train* court warned: "An equity court can never exclude claims of inability to render absolute performance, but it must scrutinize such claims carefully since officials may seize on a remedy made available for extreme illness and promote it into the daily bread of convenience." Train, 510 F.2d at 713. Unlike other challenges to EPA decision-making, where "the Court defers to agency expertise about appropriate rulemaking procedures, such deference is inappropriate where Congress has unambiguously expressed its intent that these regulations be promulgated by a date certain and the agency manifestly has failed to fulfill this statutory obligation." Sierra Club, 444 F. Supp. 2d at 56.

#### IV. ARGUMENT

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The material facts of this case are not in dispute – EPA has failed to complete its review of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone under 42 U.S.C. § 7409(d)(1) by March 12, 2013, the timeframe mandated by Congress. Because EPA's failure to perform its non-discretionary duty violates the Clean Air Act, Plaintiffs are entitled to summary judgment on the claims set forth in their complaint, and to an injunction ordering EPA to complete its review of the national ambient air quality standards according to the timeframe set forth below.

# A. This Court Has Jurisdiction to Resolve This Matter.

## 1. The Clean Air Act Provides the Court Subject Matter Jurisdiction.

Section 304(a) of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a), provides district courts with jurisdiction to compel EPA action where there is a "failure of the Administrator to perform any act or duty under [the Clean Air Act] which is not discretionary with the Administrator . . . ." The Act

requires Plaintiffs, before commencing legal action, to provide 60-days' notice of their intent to file such action. 42 U.S.C. § 7604(b). In accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 7604(b)(2), Plaintiffs provided notice to the Administrator by letters dated March 13, 2013 and March 28, 2013, of Plaintiffs' intent to sue the Administrator to enforce the nondiscretionary duties described herein. *See* Letters from Paul Cort, Earthjustice, to Bob Perciasepe, Acting Administrator, EPA (Mar. 13, 2013 and Mar. 28, 2013), attached as Exhibits 1-2 to the Declaration of Paul Cort In Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment ("Cort Decl."). More than 60 days have passed since EPA received those letters, and EPA has still not performed the relevant duties. Accordingly, this Court has jurisdiction pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a)(2).

# 2. Plaintiffs Have Standing to Bring This Action.

Plaintiff organizations have standing to bring this action because: (1) at least one of their members has suffered an "injury in fact;" (2) the injury is "fairly traceable" to the challenged illegal conduct; and (3) it is "likely," as opposed to merely "speculative," that the injury will be redressed by a favorable decision. *Friends of the Earth, Inc. v. Laidlaw Envtl. Servs., Inc.*, 528 U.S. 167, 180-81 (2000); *Ecological Rights Found. v. Pacific Lumber Co.*, 230 F.3d 1141, 1147 (9th Cir. 2000).

Individual members of Plaintiff organizations are suffering injuries as a result of the current ozone standards. Here, individual members of the Plaintiff organizations have alleged concrete injuries to their physical well-being and their aesthetic and recreational interests stemming from their ongoing exposure to ozone pollution. *See Laidlaw*, 528 U.S. at 184-85 (members' concerns about

In addition, Plaintiffs have standing to represent the interests of their members in this lawsuit because: (1) neither the claim asserted nor the relief requested requires their members to participate directly in the lawsuit; (2) each Plaintiff organization is seeking to protect interests that are germane to its purposes; and (3) at least one individual member of each Plaintiff organization would have standing to sue individually, as demonstrated herein. *See Hunt v. Washington State Apple Advertising Comm'n*, 432 U.S. 333, 343 (1977); *Ecological Rights Found*., 230 F.3d at 1147. *See* Declaration of Harold Wimmer in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment ¶¶ 3-6 (American Lung Association seeks to improve lung health, prevent lung disease and promote implementation of the Clean Air Act, and has numerous members affected by current ozone

standards); Declaration of John Stith in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment ¶¶ 4-5, 7 (EDF is dedicated to reducing ozone pollution, and has members affected by ozone pollution); Declaration of Linda Lopez In Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment ¶¶4, 6-10 (Natural Resources Defense Council seeks to "safeguard the Earth" and has numerous members affected by failure to review ozone standards); Declaration of Yolanda Andersen in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment ¶¶4, 6-10 (Sierra Club's work involves enforcement of the Clean Air Act, and has hundreds of thousands of members affected by ozone pollution).

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the effects of illegal discharges of pollutants on recreational and aesthetic and economic interests are sufficient to confer standing); *see also Natural Res. Def. Council v. EPA*, 507 F.2d 905, 910 (9th Cir. 2004) (holding that a plaintiff "suffer[s] injury if compelled to breathe air less pure than that mandated by the Clean Air Act").

Plaintiffs have members residing in counties just below the current primary standard of 0.075 ppm. *See* Declaration of Susan Griffin in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment ("Griffin Decl."); Declaration of Joseph B. Chaiklin in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment ("Chaiklin Decl."); Declaration of Mary Hsia-Coron in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment ("Coron Decl."). The health of these individuals is impacted by ozone pollution, since ozone pollution exacerbates their asthma, allergies and other respiratory conditions. Griffin Decl. ¶7; Chaiklin Decl. ¶¶ 4-6. These individuals also have loved ones whose health is affected by ozone pollution. Griffin Decl. ¶¶3, 5-6; Coron Decl. ¶6. Ozone pollution also makes it difficult for individuals to enjoy the outdoors. Griffin Decl. ¶7; Chaiklin Decl. ¶5; Coron Decl. ¶¶4-5, 7.

Plaintiffs also have members residing in counties that are not in attainment with current ozone standards. Declaration of Marilynn Marsh Robinson in Support of Plaintiffs' Motion for Summary Judgment ("Marsh Decl."); Andersen Decl. ¶8; Lopez Decl. ¶7; Wimmer Decl. ¶5. These individuals suffer health effects from ozone pollution, and also are forced to limit their recreational interests because of ozone pollution. Marsh Decl. ¶2.

Plaintiffs can also show that their injuries are "traceable" to EPA's failure to review and revise the ambient air quality standards for ozone, and that their injuries would be "redressed" by an order requiring EPA to review the standards. *See Natural Res. Def. Council v. EPA*, 542 F.3d 1235, 1245-46 (9th Cir. 2008)(plaintiffs had standing since they could show agency regulations would likely address their injuries); *see also Cantrell v. City of Long Beach*, 241 F.3d 674, 682 (9th Cir. 2001)(noting that when plaintiff seeks to vindicate a procedural right conferred by statute, plaintiff's burden of showing "causation" and "redressability" requirements is diminished); *Covington v. Jefferson County*, 358 F.3d 626, 641 (9th Cir. 2004)(applying *Cantrell* to analyze standing for claims arising out of Clean Air Act).

The injuries inflicted on Plaintiffs' members are "fairly traceable" to EPA's illegal conduct challenged in this case because each month of delay in EPA's review of the ozone standards extends the health and welfare impacts associated with ozone pollution in the areas where Plaintiffs' members live. *See Ecological Rights Found.*, 230 F.3d at 1152 (defendants' violations of Clean Water Act met "traceability" requirement, since "alleged injury can be traced to the defendant's challenged conduct"); *Natural Res. Def. Council*, 542 F.3d at 1245-46 ("traceability" requirement met where injuries suffered by plaintiffs due to unregulated discharges would "likely" be addressed by EPA action); Griffin Decl. ¶8; Chaiklin Decl. ¶7-8; Coron Decl. ¶7; Grossman Decl. ¶5; Marsh Decl. ¶4-6.

Finally, this Court may redress Plaintiffs' asserted injuries by issuing an order compelling EPA to expedite its overdue review of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone. *See Natural Res. Def. Council*, 542 F.3d at 1245-46 (EPA's promulgation of regulations would redress plaintiffs' injuries); *Covington*, 358 F.3d at 639-40 (statutory violations could be redressed by county compliance with statute); Griffin Decl. ¶8; Chaiklin Decl. ¶7-8; Coron Decl. ¶7; Grossman Decl. ¶5; Marsh Decl. ¶4-6.

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs have standing to challenge EPA's failure to comply with the Clean Air Act's mandatory deadline.

B. Plaintiffs Are Entitled To Summary Judgment Because EPA Failed to Perform its Mandatory Duty to Review the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone by March 12, 2013.

The Clean Air Act provides that EPA, "at five-year intervals[,] . . . shall complete a thorough review of . . . the national ambient air quality standards . . . and shall make such revisions in . . . standards and promulgate such new standards as may be appropriate . . . ." 42 U.S.C. § 7409(d)(1).

EPA last promulgated national ambient air quality standards for ozone on March 12, 2008. *See* 73 Fed. Reg. at 16436. In accordance with 42 U.S.C. § 7409(d)(1), EPA was required to complete its review and promulgate appropriate revisions to the standards no later than March 12, 2013. To date, however, EPA has failed to complete its review of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone in compliance with 42 U.S.C. § 7409(d)(1). Defendants' Answer to Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief ("Answer") ¶¶ 5, 29, 35, 37 (Dkt. No. 33).

The Clean Air Act's requirements that the Administrator review national ambient air quality standards are unambiguous and mandatory. *See American Lung Ass'n v. Reilly*, 962 F.2d 258, 260 (2d Cir. 1992)(Clean Air Act imposes upon EPA a non-discretionary, statutory duty to review ozone ambient air quality standards at five-year intervals); *Natural Res. Def. Council*, 542 F.3d at 1251 (use of the word "shall" in the statute required EPA to issue regulations); *Natural Res. Def. Council v. Reilly*, 983 F.2d 259, 266 (D.C. Cir. 1993)(Clean Air Act requirement that Administrator "shall" promulgate standards "manifestly obliges" EPA to issue regulations); *Sierra Club v. Leavitt*, 355 F. Supp. 2d 544, 549 (D.D.C. 2005)("the word 'shall' [] sets forth a mandatory duty"). Indeed, EPA does not dispute that the Clean Air Act imposes a mandatory duty to review the national ambient air quality standards for ozone every five years. Answer ¶¶ 3, 27, 28. Nor does EPA dispute that it has failed to complete review of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone. *Id.* ¶ 5, 29, 35, 37. Plaintiffs are therefore entitled to summary judgment.

- C. The Court Should Order EPA to Complete its Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards By Signing a Proposed Rulemaking no later than December 1, 2014 and a Final Rulemaking no later than October 1, 2015.
  - 1. This Court Has the Authority to Set Mandatory Deadlines for EPA to Comply With the Clean Air Act.

Where, as here, EPA has acted in direct conflict with mandatory statutory deadlines, it is well-established that courts have the authority to order EPA to perform its mandatory duty. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 7604(a) (giving district courts jurisdiction to order the Administrator to perform such mandatory acts or duties under the statute); *Sierra Club*, 602 F.Supp. at 898 (holding courts have the authority to require EPA to comply with statutory deadlines for issuing regulations); *see also Train*, 510 F.2d at 705 (finding "[t]he authority to set enforceable deadlines both of an ultimate and intermediate nature is an appropriate procedure for exercise of the court's equity powers to vindicate the public interest").

2. EPA Can Propose Rulemaking by December 1, 2014 and Finalize its Review of the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for Ozone by October 1, 2015.

Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court order EPA to comply with its non-discretionary duty under 42 U.S.C. § 7409(d)(1) to complete the review of the national ambient air quality

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standards for ozone by signing a proposed rule no later than December 1, 2014, and a final rule no later than October 1, 2015. EPA carries a heavy burden to demonstrate that more expeditious compliance is impossible. *See, e.g., Sierra Club*, 602 F. Supp. at 898-99 (noting that the desire for "further study" of an issue insufficient to show "impossibility"); *Sierra Club v. Thomas*, 658 F. Supp. 165, 171-72 (N.D. Cal. 1987)(noting that burden of showing "impossibility" is a heavy one, particularly where "agency has failed to demonstrate any diligence whatever in discharging its statutory duty").

EPA has reviewed and revised the national ambient air quality standards for ozone and other pollutants on many occasions. The process for this review is now well-established, with a discrete set of steps required to complete these reviews. While the particular technical issues may vary from review to review, there is no serious question as to the steps involved or the general timeframes associated with those steps. Repeatedly EPA has sought to extend the timing of these reviews, and repeatedly EPA has demonstrated that when forced to complete its review in accordance with a court-ordered schedule, expeditious compliance is possible.

Based on EPA's own projections for the time needed to review the national ambient air quality standards for ozone, as well as the time taken by EPA to review other national ambient air quality standards, it is eminently possible for EPA to issue a Proposed Rule on the ozone standards by December 1, 2014 and a Final Rule by October 1, 2015.

As set forth in greater detail below, because EPA cannot show that it would be "impossible" to comply with the rulemaking timelines requested by Plaintiffs, the Court should issue an order in Plaintiffs' favor.

# a. The Deadlines Sought By Plaintiffs Are Consistent with EPA's Own Assumptions Regarding the Ozone Rulemaking Timeframes.

Plaintiffs have requested a rulemaking timeline that is in line with the timeframes proposed by EPA itself for the review of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone.

Steps Involved in Reviewing National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Ozone. In a 2012 presentation about the ozone standards at issue in this case, EPA staff outlined the basic steps involved in the review of a national ambient air quality standard. See Environmental Protection

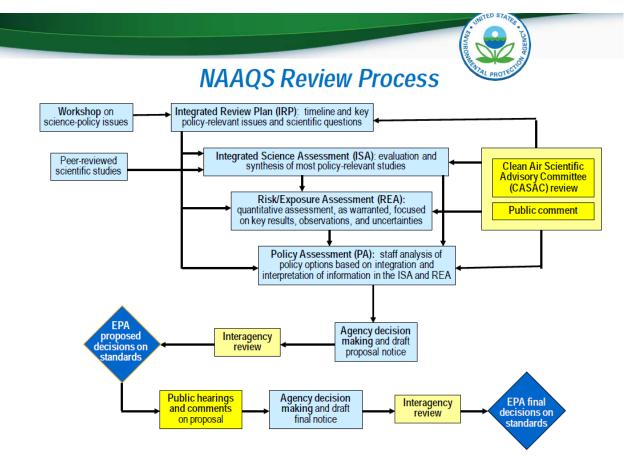
Agency, Review of the Ozone NAAQS: Schedule and Process, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Meeting, CASAC Ozone Panel (Sept. 11-13, 2012)("Ozone NAAQS Schedule 2012") at 3, attached as Exhibit 8 to Plaintiffs' RJN (reprinted as Figure 1 below).

In reviewing a national ambient air quality standard, EPA first develops its plan for conducting the review and shares that with its Clean Air Scientific Advisory Panel. In accordance with that plan, EPA develops a series of assessments that will inform the final rule: (1) an "Integrated Science Assessment" ("ISA"), which evaluates and synthesizes recent scientific studies related to ozone pollution; (2) a "Risk/Exposure Assessment" ("REA"), which provides a quantitative analysis of the health and welfare risks associated with ozone pollution; and (3) a "Policy Assessment," which provides EPA staff's analysis of policy options based on the integration and interpretation of information from the ISA and REA. *See* Ozone NAAQS Schedule 2012 at 3; Integrated Review Plan at 1-4 to 1-6. Each of these assessments go through draft and final revisions, and will also be subject to review by CASAC and the public. Ozone NAAQS Schedule 2012 at 3.

Once the final Policy Assessment is completed, EPA issues a proposed rule based on that assessment. *Id.* In EPA's traditional review process, the proposed rule is subject to interagency review by the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB").<sup>1</sup> *Id.* The proposed rule is then released for public hearing and comment. *Id.* The input collected during this public process is taken into account, and EPA develops the final rule. *Id.* Traditionally, this final rule is again reviewed by OMB and other interested agencies before it is finally signed. *Id.* 

While EPA budgets time for interagency review as part of its rulemaking schedule, it has no legal entitlement to this time, and it may not use interagency review as a means of delaying the rulemaking process. See, e.g., Envt'l Def. Fund v. Thomas, 627 F. Supp. 566, 571 (D.D.C. 1986)(OMB cannot use review process to delay promulgation of regulations "beyond the date of a statutory deadline"); Am. Lung Ass'n, 884 F. Supp. at 349 (OMB review "serves no congressional purpose and is wholly discretionary"); see also Exec. Order No. 12866 § 6(a)(3)(D), 58 Fed. Reg. 51735, 51741 (Oct. 4, 1993)(interagency review can be shortened or waived "for regulatory actions that are governed by a statutory or court-imposed deadline").

Figure 1 - EPA's NAAQS Review Process



EPA's Time Estimates For Review of Ozone Standards. EPA has been fairly consistent in estimating the timeframes associated with each of these steps. In its most recent review of the current ozone rulemaking process and schedule, EPA estimated that CASAC would review the final draft ISA and first drafts of the REA and Policy Assessment in September 2012. Ozone NAAQS Schedule 2012 at 2. EPA would issue the final ISA three months later in December 2012. Id. In Spring 2013, CASAC would meet to review the second drafts of the REA and Policy Assessment. Id. Again, roughly three months later, in Summer 2013, EPA would issue the final REA and Policy Assessment. Id. The Proposed Rule would then follow roughly four to six months after the final Policy Assessment (including 90 days of review at OMB), and be signed in December 2013. The Final Rule, after public comment and 90 days of OMB review, would be signed in September 2014. Id.

The relative times associated with each step in this timetable are consistent with EPA's prior

estimates of the time needed to complete the review of ozone standards. See Integrated Review Plan at 2-2; United States Environmental Protection Agency, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee Ozone Review Panel, Public Meeting (May 19-20, 2011) at 6, attached as Exhibit 9 to Plaintiffs' RJN; United States Environmental Protection Agency, Review of the Ozone NAAQS: Schedule and Preview of the REA and PA, Presentation to the CASAC Ozone Panel (Jan. 9, 2012) at 2, attached as Exhibit 10 to Plaintiffs' RJN. Table 1 below summarizes the various schedules EPA has announced for completing this ozone rulemaking. While EPA has made certain choices that have resulted in its failure to act in concert with these schedules, it has never wavered in its estimates of the time associated with the specific steps, or suggested that these timeframes were somehow "impossible." 

Table 1 – Schedules Proposed by EPA for Current Ozone Rulemaking

EPA Document Outlining Ozone Review Schedule	Predicted Final CASAC Meeting	Predicted Final Policy Assessment	Predicted Notice of Proposed Rulemaking	Predicted Final Rulemaking	Time Intervals Between Rulemaking Stages		
Integrated Review Plan for the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards Review, External Draft (September 2009)	May 2012	October 2012	May 2013	February 2014	5 months/ 7 months/ 9 months		
Integrated Review Plan for the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (April 2011)	January 2013	March 2013	September 2013	June 2014	2 months/ 6 months/ 9 months		
CASAC Ozone Review Panel Public Meeting (May 19-20, 2011)	December/Jan uary 2013	March 2013	September 2013	June 2014	3 months/ 6 months/ 9 months		
Review of the Ozone NAAQS Schedule and Preview of the REA and PA (January 9, 2012)	January/ February 2013	May 2013	October 2013	July 2014	4 months/ 5 months/ 9 months		
Review of the Ozone NAAQS: Schedule and Process (September 11, 2012)	Spring 2013	Summer 2013	December 2013	September 2014	3 months/ 4-6 months/ 9 months		

Steps in its review of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone. EPA released first drafts of the REA and Policy Assessment in August 2012. See <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/ozone/s\_o3\_2008\_rea.html">http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/ozone/s\_o3\_2008\_rea.html</a>. EPA issued the Final Integrated Science Assessment in February 2013. See <a href="http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/ozone/s\_o3\_2008\_isa.html">http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/ozone/s\_o3\_2008\_isa.html</a>. EPA has prepared the second drafts of the REA and the Policy Assessment, and has scheduled a final meeting with CASAC to review these drafts in March 2014. Memorandum from Lydia Wegman, Director Health and Environmental Impacts Division, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, to Holly Stallworth, Designated Federal Officer, Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (June 2013), attached as Exhibit 11 to Plaintiffs' RJN.

Following EPA's projected timetable, this would mean that: the final Policy Assessment should be issued approximately three months later, in June or July of 2014; the Proposed Rule should be completed four to six months after that (i.e., sometime between October 2014 and January 2015); and the Final Rule should be issued sometime between July 2015 and October 2015.

Thus, the timeline proposed by Plaintiffs – signing the Proposed Rule by December 1, 2014 and the Final Rule by October 1, 2015 – is possible, even based on the timelines projected by EPA.

# b. The Proposed Timeline Is Consistent With the Schedules EPA Has Met in Previous NAAQS Rulemakings.

The timelines proposed by Plaintiffs for review of the national ambient air quality standards for ozone are also consistent with the timelines EPA has successfully complied with in prior rulemakings for national ambient air quality standards. Table 2 outlines the schedules EPA has followed in recent major national ambient air quality standard review rulemakings.

Table 2 – Schedules for Prior NAAQS Rulemakings

National Standard	Final CASAC Meeting	Final Policy Assessment/ Recommend ations	Signature Date of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking	Signature Date of Final Rulemaking	Time Intervals Between Rulemaking Stages
Particulate Matter (1997)	May 1996	July 1996	November 27, 1996 (61 Fed. Reg. 65638)	July 16, 1997 (62 Fed. Reg. 38652)	2 months/ 4 months/ 8 months

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National Standard	Final CASAC Meeting	Final Policy Assessment/ Recommend ations	Signature Date of Notice of Proposed Rulemaking	Signature Date of Final Rulemaking	Time Intervals Between Rulemaking Stages
Particulate Matter (2006)	May 2005	June 2005	December 20, 2005 (71 Fed. Reg. 2620)	September 21, 2006 (71 Fed. Reg. 61144)	1 month/ 6 months/ 9 months
Ozone (1997)	March 1996	June 1996	November 27, 1996 (61 Fed. Reg. 65716)	July 16, 1997 (62 Fed. Reg. 38856)	3 months/ 5 months/ 8 months
Ozone (2008)	August 2006	January 2007	June 20, 2007 (72 Fed. Reg. 37818)	March 12, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 16436)	5 months/ 5 months/ 9 months
Nitrogen Oxides (2010)	December 2008	N/A	June 26, 2009 (74 Fed. Reg. 34404)	January 22, 2010 (75 Fed. Reg. 6474)	NA/ NA/ 7 months
Lead (2009)	August 2007	November 2007	May 1, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 29184)	October 15, 2008 (73 Fed. Reg. 66964)	3 months/ 6 months/ 5 months

These prior rulemakings also involved complex scientific analysis. As in the present rulemaking, EPA was required to evaluate new scientific data, as well as the human health and welfare effects of the proposed national ambient air quality standards, and incorporate comments from CASAC and the public. All these rulemakings were completed within timeframes similar to the ones requested by Plaintiffs. Therefore, the schedule requested by Plaintiffs is eminently reasonable and feasible for EPA to attain.

#### V. CONCLUSION AND PRAYER FOR RELIEF

For the foregoing reasons, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court grant their Motion for Summary Judgment and find that EPA has failed to perform its non-discretionary duty required by 42 U.S.C. § 7409(d)(1). To remedy EPA's clear legal violations, Plaintiffs respectfully request that the Court order EPA to sign a Proposed Rule by no later than December 1, 2014 and a Final Rule by no later than October 1, 2015. A proposed form of order is provided herewith.

DATED: January 21, 2014 Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Irene V. Gutierrez PAUL R. CORT IRENE V. GUTIERREZ

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