



Air Resources Board



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QUALITY ASSURANCE BULLETIN – 004

**Temporary Closure of Monitors in AQS
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Introduction

This bulletin is intended to provide clarification for ambient air monitoring organizations (MO) within the California Air Resources Board's (ARB) Primary Quality Assurance Organization (PQAO) regarding the temporary closure of monitors in the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Air Quality System (AQS) database.

Issue

Monitors that have been removed from operation at air monitoring sites within the ARB PQAO are not always closed in AQS. As a result, data completeness for these monitors is calculated in AQS using an incorrect time of operation. Therefore, many of these monitors are not meeting ARB's goal of 85 percent data completeness and U.S. EPA's requirement of 75 percent data completeness.

Resolution

MOs within the ARB PQAO that intend on temporarily closing a monitor should notify ARB and send U.S. EPA a letter requesting approval for the closure. The letter should include the monitor's AQS identification number, reason for closing the monitor, and expected dates of the closure. If the closure is approved, the MO should update AQS by going into the Maintain Monitor tab (see Attachment 1 – Figure 1), entering the monitor's identification numbers, selecting Sampling Period (see Attachment 1 – Figure 2), and entering the appropriate End Date. When the monitor reopens, go into the Maintain Monitor tab, enter the monitor's identification numbers, select Sampling Period, and add a new line with a new Start Date.

Note: If a monitor is being permanently closed, also enter a Closure Date in the Maintain Monitor tab and ensure other fields that have a start date entered are accompanied with the appropriate end date.

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The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

Attachment 1

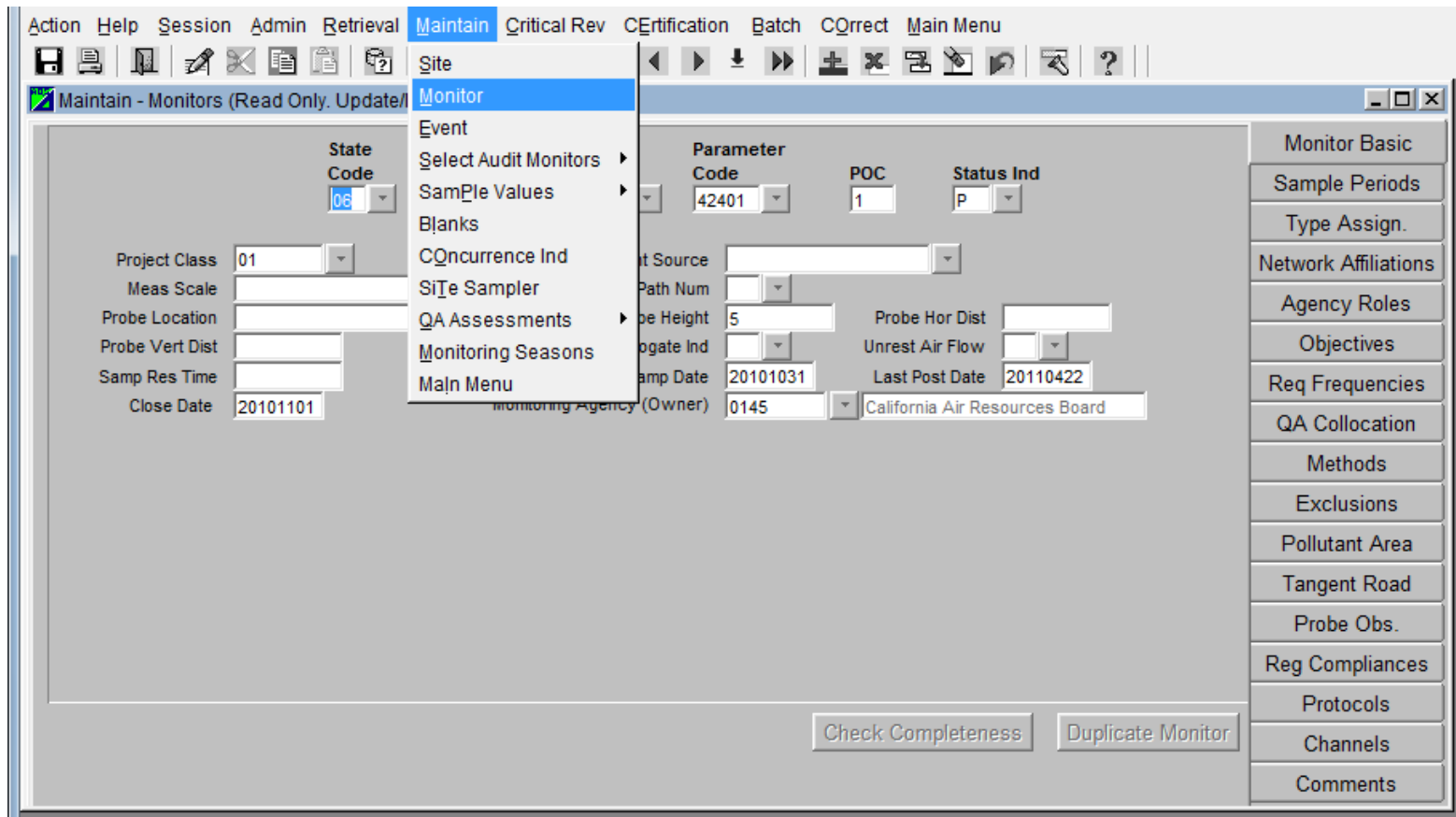


Figure 1: Screenshot of AQ5 Maintain Monitor Tab

Attachement 1

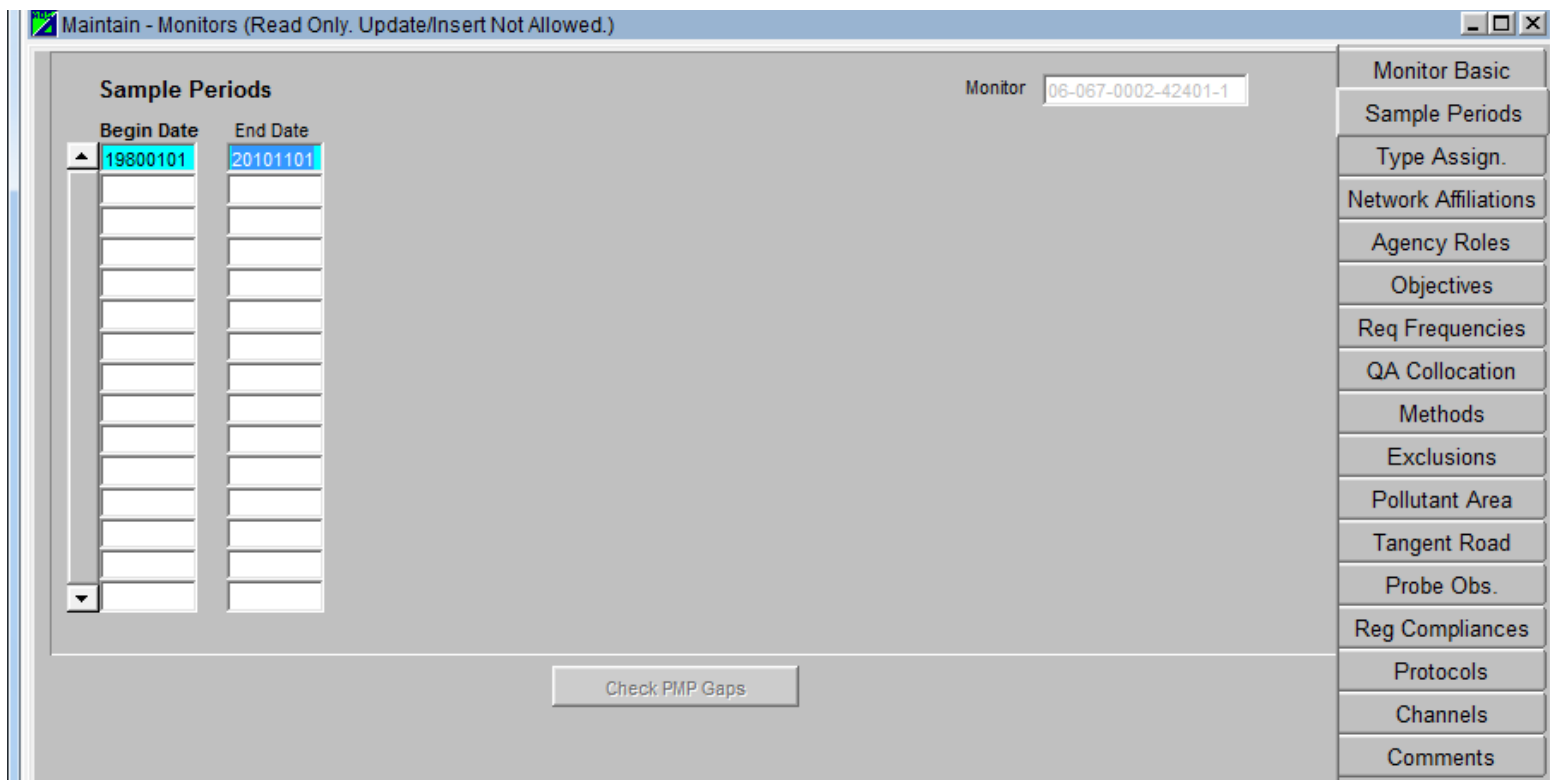


Figure 2: Screenshot of AQS Sample Periods Fields