

SAN PEDRO & PENINSULA HOMEOWNER'S COALITION

**Averill Park Homeowner's * Barton Hill Assn. * La Rambla Neighborhood Group * Leland Park Homeowner's * Rolling Hills Riviera Homeowner's
* San Pedro Peninsula Homeowner's United Inc. * Palos Verdes Shores * South Shores Homeowner's Association * The Palisades Homeowner's *
Point Fermin Homeowner's Assn. -**

P.O. BOX 1106

SAN PEDRO, CA 90733



February 27, 2008

Dr. Jean Ospital
AQMD Health Effects Officer
Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, 91765

RE: Comments on the Multiple Air Toxics Exposure Study (MATES III)

Dear Sirs:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the MATES III study referenced above. As a coalition of homeowner's groups within the Port communities, we understand the severity of the air pollution problem, as we reside within the diesel death zone created by the two largest polluters: the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach. We were extremely disappointed to learn that there has been essentially no improvement in diesel emissions since the MATES II Study, even though non-diesel pollutants showed a 50% improvement.

We appreciate the AQMD for undertaking this study and, in doing so, making this information available to the public. Our comments are as follows:

1. Cancer risk is the only health risk quantified in this study, thus understating the true mortality risk attributable to the current levels of air pollution. We request that all health risks that have been associated with air pollution, such as pulmonary and respiratory diseases, be included in this study. We understand that the total mortality risk is about ten times higher than the cancer risk alone. Since this study may be used to set policy in the future, it is very important that this study clearly reflects the cost to human life levied against it by air pollution.
2. We request more air monitoring stations in San Pedro and Wilmington. Since these two communities are adjacent to the Ports, and have some of the worst air quality, it is important to have monitoring stations in these areas. The information collected from these stations should be available to the public on a regular and on-going basis. The public should not have to wait for another MATES study in order to find out whether air quality is improving or continuing to deteriorate.

3. The MATES III Estimated Risk maps lump all levels of risk 1,200 or above into one color code. Therefore, this one color code covers the risk levels of 1,200 to 2,900, a spread of 1,700. We believe that this practice obscures the severity of the most polluted areas. We request that there be a an additional risk map that details this risk section into individual levels with a spread of 200, as with the rest of the levels on the existing map. Again, since this study may be used to set future policy and direct potential revenues, it is important to highlight the true severity of the pollution in the Port areas.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Andrew Mardesich", is written over a solid black rectangular background.

Andrew Mardesich
President
San Pedro and Peninsula Homeowner's Coalition