



# BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

822 KENNETH HAHN HALL OF ADMINISTRATION / LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90012

Telephone (213) 974-4444 / FAX (213) 626-6941

**JANICE HAHN**

SUPERVISOR, FOURTH DISTRICT

May 17, 2022

Mr. Wayne Nastri  
Executive Director  
South Coast AQMD  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

**Re: Toxic Air Emissions from Sterigenics' Medical Sterilization Plant in Vernon**

Dear Mr. Nastri,

I am writing to urge South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) to require Sterigenics U.S. LLC in Vernon to cease operations of any activities that are contributing to elevated air emissions of a highly toxic chemical, ethylene oxide. Ethylene oxide is a cancer-causing chemical, and I am gravely concerned that two Sterigenics facilities continue to operate next to people working, living, and going to school nearby.

On May 5, 2022, SCAQMD issued a Proposition 65 notice to the County Health Officer, the City of Vernon Director of Health, and the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors notifying us of high levels of ethylene oxide "likely to affect public health and safety near the Sterigenics facilities." The Proposition 65 notice references air monitoring results from almost a month ago, on April 22, 2022, as well as more recent data that continue to give us reason for concern.

Neighboring residents in Maywood live five hundred feet away from the Sterigenics facilities. This is the same community that has already suffered the impacts of lead contamination from Exide and metal emissions from a magnesium chemical fire. Additionally, these residents face environmental impacts from living close to freeways and other industrial facilities. SCAQMD should consider the health burden of these cumulative impacts in its assessment and enforcement strategies.

I understand that SCAQMD continues to investigate this important matter and is rolling out a more robust community air monitoring plan. However, we cannot risk the health and safety of our residents while these investigations are underway. **I am urging you to require Sterigenics to cease ethylene oxide-emitting operations until they come into compliance with air quality rules and regulations.**

If you have any questions or would like to discuss, please contact my Senior Health Deputy, Katie Butler, at [kbutler@bos.lacounty.gov](mailto:kbutler@bos.lacounty.gov) or 213-974-4444. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

JANICE HAHN  
Supervisor, Fourth District  
County of Los Angeles

JH:kb

