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FIRST VICE CHAIR

August 27, 2021

Governing Board
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Dear South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board:

I am writing in regard to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Governing Board's consideration to adopt Proposed Rule 1109.1. By reducing nitrogen oxide (NOx) emissions by an estimated seven to nine tons per day, this rule would have a significant impact on improving regional air quality and protecting public health. I respectfully urge the SCAQMD Governing Board to commit to the following:

Voting to adopt Proposed Rule 1109.1 by the November 2021 Governing Board meeting. At the December 2020 Governing Board meeting, the vote was proposed for June 2021. Since then, the vote has been postponed twice more and is now scheduled for November 2021. During this time, NOx emissions from refineries have continued to disproportionately affect frontline communities of color, including in Carson and Wilmington, resulting in elevated rates of asthma, cancer, and other environmental health impacts.

Include a 2 parts per million (ppm) NOx standard for all large boilers and heaters within Proposed Rule 1109.1. By applying this standard to boilers and heaters which burn more than 40 million British Thermal Units (BTUs) of gas per hour, the rule would achieve a 95% reduction in regional NOx emissions. Currently, the refineries in Carson and Wilmington, California alone emit approximately 4.5 tons of NOx emissions per day. A strong rule with a 2 ppm standard will have tremendous impact throughout the region, and particularly in the communities most harmed by environmental inequities.

No exemptions for refineries during startup, shutdown, and malfunction periods. Refineries must be held accountable to the standards of Proposed Rule 1109.1 during non-compliance periods that are a result of inadequate equipment maintenance, operator error, or other negligence. These exemptions would provide an incentive to pollute without limitations during equipment startup and shutdown.

Proposed Rule 1109.1 is the Governing Board's opportunity to correct decades of environmental harm and devastating health impacts caused by the lack of strong air quality regulations and the

necessary enforcement. The equipment upgrades required via best available retrofit control technology are cost effective and overdue. Implementing the rule will address some of the shortcomings of the Regional Clean Air Incentives Market (RECLAIM) Program by ensuring refineries invest in the equipment required to reduce emissions.

As the Representative of California's 44th Congressional District, I urge the Governing Board to thoroughly consider the public's health by voting to adopt a strong Proposed Rule 1109.1 as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter.

Sincerely,

Nanette Diaz Barragán

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress