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April 26, 2018

Dr. Philip Fine, Deputy Executive Officer  
South Coast Air Quality Management District  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, California 91765  
Via email: pfine@aqmd.gov

Dear Dr. Fine,

This missive is being sent is to go on record in opposition to the South Coast Air Quality Management's Proposed Rule 1410, which bans refinery use of modified hydrofluoric acid (MHF).

Proposed Rule 1410 will have devastating economic impact to the local and regional economy, and the esteemed Valero Wilmington Refinery (VWF) that could compromise the many employees and the potential severely compromise this business VWF that has been a remarkable community partner that extends tremendous altruistic support for the community and many worthy charitable and education oriented organizations.

To my knowledge the California Energy Commission has found that Proposed Rule 1410 would require significant modifications to existing infrastructure estimating that this could take approximately two years, and/or force refineries to close altogether given the cost prohibitive process of switching to another technology. This could create significant fuel supply shortages and price increases for the Los Angeles region and further and severely jeopardize the harbor communities and access to affordable fuel.

One of the VWF major contributions has been to create an employment program for many underserved communities. California refineries provide high-paying, family-supporting jobs for workers across the educational attainment spectrum. Proposed Rule 1410 puts these jobs, and thousands more, in jeopardy.

My family has been in San Pedro for over 100 years acknowledged as pioneers in the local tuna canning industry. We believe in strong family values and concern for the best interest of all residents and business owners. VWF has demonstrated that sort of ethic by the caliber of leadership with in the company and concern for community.

The South Coast Air Quality Management District should not move forward with Proposed Rule 1410 that could in appropriately and potentially permanently close two regional refineries, taking jobs, causing loss of millions of dollars in tax revenues and impinge on the strong community partnerships established. The idea of higher prices, fuel shortages and a devastated economy clearly justifies that Proposed Rule 1410 not be considered.

Sincerely yours,  
*Stephanie Mardesich*  
Stephanie Mardesich

cc: Michael Krause- mkrause@aqmd.gov  
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