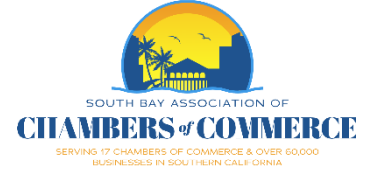




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November 6, 2025

Chair Vanessa Delgado
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, California 91765-4182

Re: Draft Cooperative Agreement Between South Coast AQMD and Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles

Dear Chair Delgado and Members of the Governing Board:

On behalf of the following organizations, business, labor, and community leaders, we sincerely thank the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Governing Board for its leadership and commend SCAQMD's staff for their tireless efforts in promoting a balanced, results-oriented approach to improving air quality at the San Pedro Bay Ports. The progress achieved over the past year, highlighted by the proposed Cooperative Agreement among the District, the Cities and Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, shows what can be accomplished when regulatory agencies and the regulated community collaborate toward common goals.

The undersigned organizations strongly urge the Governing Board to approve the Cooperative Agreement at its November 2025 meeting. This critical step will establish a collaborative, flexible, and enforceable framework that supports the region's clean-air goals without harming the economic vitality of the ports or threatening the livelihoods of nearly one million Southern Californians who rely on trade and logistics.

We commend Executive Officer Wayne Nastri, the District staff, and the Ports' environmental and engineering teams for their extensive efforts in technical analysis, negotiation, and public outreach. These efforts have transformed a once-controversial proposal into a model of cooperation. The Agreement maintains SCAQMD's leadership role in air quality while recognizing the practical realities of planning and delivering large-scale infrastructure, supply-chain dynamics, economic competitiveness, and global technology cycles.

This "give and take" and exchange of ideas exemplifies what a real-world transition to zero emissions looks like: ambitious, complicated, and sometimes messy. Implementation schedules will be aggressive; new technologies will fail before they succeed; costs will fluctuate; and progress will depend on many factors beyond the direct control of the Ports, their tenants, utilities, equipment manufacturers, and the SCAQMD.

In short, it will likely be a bumpy road. But that's precisely why flexibility is crucial. A Cooperative Agreement framework allows all involved parties to adapt, make corrections, and accelerate progress when breakthroughs occur, rather than being stuck with rigid mandates that might halt progress or shift investment elsewhere.

The Cooperative Agreement also highlights Southern California's leadership in clean-air innovation. It builds on over a decade of success under the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, which has already reduced diesel particulate matter by 90%, nitrogen oxides by 70%, and sulfur oxides by 98% since 2005. **Building on that success, the Agreement introduces "CAAP Plus" measures. These five voluntary initiatives expand zero-emission truck, cargo-handling, and vessel programs while ensuring community involvement.**

Most importantly, this Cooperative Agreement shows regional unity. Cities, ports, businesses, labor, and environmental agencies have found common ground in a shared commitment: cleaner air through partnership, not polarization. By endorsing this framework, the SCAQMD Governing Board will strengthen the Air District's reputation as both an environmental protector and a practical problem-solver that knows how to make policy work in real life.

We respectfully encourage you to adopt the Cooperative Agreement at your November 2025 meeting. This is a crucial step in the long, challenging, yet attainable path toward a zero-emission future for Southern California.

Thank you for your continued leadership and collaboration.

Respectfully submitted,

African American Farmers of California
Almond Alliance
American Hort
Aquaculture Suppliers Association
Agriculture Transportation Coalition
APM Terminals
BizFed Central Valley
Building Owners and Managers Association California
J.G. Boswell Company
California Building Industry Association
California Business Properties Association
California Business Roundtable
California Chamber of Commerce
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
California Manufacturing & Technology Association
California Retailers Association
California Short Line Rail Association
El Dorado Almonds
Everport Terminal Services
Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce
Gensteam
Harbor Association of Industry & Commerce
Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Inland Empire Economic Partnership

Latino Consumer Federation
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed)
Los Angeles Customs Brokers & Freight Forwarders Association
Maersk
Majestic Realty
Metro Ports
Milk Producers Council
Milt & Edie's Drycleaners & Tailoring Center
Monterey County Farm Bureau
Murad Farms Inc.
NAIOP California
National Aquaculture Association
National Retail Federation
Nisei Farmers League
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers
Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce & Civic Association
The Pasha Group
Pet Food Institute
Rebuild SoCal Partnership
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
Retail Industry Leaders Association
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce
Santa Barbara County Farm Bureau
SSA Marine
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
San Pedro Chamber of Commerce
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
Southern California Leadership Council
Supply Chain Federation
U.S. Meat Export Federation
United States Trout Farmers Association
Valley Industry & Commerce Association (VICA)
Western Agricultural Processors Association
Western Plant Health Association
Western Propane Gas Association
Western Tree Nut Association
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
Yusen Terminals