

November 3, 2025

South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Dr, Diamond Bar, CA 91765
909-396-2000

Dear Members of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board,

I, Ana Gonzalez, SCAQMD Environmental Justice Advisory Group (EJAG) member, am writing to express deep concerns regarding the proposed Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Ports, which is currently under consideration for approval by the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). I strongly oppose the pursuit of this cooperative agreement in lieu of adopting a mandatory rule to address the escalating pollution in our region.

As you are aware, the recent data regarding emissions from the San Pedro Ports is alarming. In the past year, we have seen an increase in particulate matter (PM_{2.5}) by 11% and nitrogen oxides (NO_x) by 6%, amounting to an estimated 9,000 tons of NO_x emissions. These figures are unacceptable, especially for families near the Ports and in the Inland Empire, who already endure some of the worst air quality in America. The ongoing rise in emissions is not just an environmental concern; it is a public health crisis. Higher levels of PM_{2.5} and NO_x correlate directly with increased rates of respiratory illnesses, cardiovascular diseases, and developmental issues, significantly impacting the health of our children and vulnerable populations.

Moreover, the proposed MOU lacks specific, enforceable emission reduction targets, which undermines the effectiveness of any agreement and places our communities at further risk. The absence of binding commitments to reduce emissions represents a failure to act on a critical public health issue, particularly given the existing momentum from community advocacy that sought to maintain local regulatory authority over port operations through the Ports ISR. Instead, the recent shift to a cooperative agreement, executed without adequate stakeholder input, disregards the voices of those who have tirelessly campaigned for a robust regulatory framework.

As a dedicated EJAG member and community leader, I have repeatedly requested that this matter be added to our agendas for discussion, but our requests have gone unheeded. The lack of consideration for meaningful discussion on this issue not only undermines our collective voice but raises serious concerns about transparency and equitable governance. While staff have cited the Brown Act as a barrier to discussion, it is disheartening to see that other advisory groups within the SCAQMD have been permitted to agendaize and vote on similar matters. Our calls for a robust environmental and economic justice dialogue have been overlooked. The need for strong leadership is imperative. **I urge this board to reconsider and deny the MOU, directing staff to re-focus on the rule-making for the Marine Port ISR, Proposed Rule**

2304. This approach will allow us to comprehensively evaluate all aspects of port operations and implement strategies that improve efficiency while significantly reducing emissions.

The opportunity for federal funding to support the transition to zero-emission infrastructure, such as electric charging stations and advanced logistics systems, cannot be overlooked. These investments not only improve air quality but also bring economic benefits through job creation in Southern California.

I implore you to stand with us and prioritize the health of our communities over short-term agreements that lack accountability. Our fight for clean air and justice for the families affected by poor air quality must take precedence.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We hope to see a commitment to stronger action that reflects our community's needs and aspirations for a healthier future.

Sincerely,

Ana Gonzalez
Member, Environmental Justice Advisory Group (EJAG)
(San Bernardino County) Rialto Resident