



TERMINAL SERVICES



September 18, 2025

Vanessa Delgado
Governing Board Members
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, California 91765

RE: California Business Community Supports Cooperative Ports Plan for Jobs and Growth

Dear Chair Delgado and Governing Board Members:

Southern California's economy is anchored by a trade and logistics network that supports nearly two million jobs and generates hundreds of billions in economic output. **To protect this vital system while advancing clean air goals, representatives of businesses large and small across the region voice their support of a cooperative agreement with the Cities and Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, on a plan to achieve clean-air goals.** A strategy built on collaboration will help protect Californians from higher prices, preserve thousands of well-paying jobs, and sustain the economic health of communities that depend on trade and logistics.

This effort comes at a time of significant supply chain challenges, including tariffs, infrastructure fee increases, and ongoing cost-of-living pressures for consumers. A rigid new mandate was unnecessary given the progress already being made under the Ports' Clean Air Action Plan. By choosing a cooperative approach, the Board is helping ensure that clean-air progress continues without destabilizing a supply chain that is critical to the region.

Southern California relies on strong ports and resilient supply chains to drive growth and opportunity. The ports are the backbone of a logistics network that supports nearly two million jobs across the region, including over 900,000 directly employed workers. This sector generates nearly half a trillion dollars in economic output annually and contributes over \$93 billion in tax revenues that fund essential local services, from public safety to schools and infrastructure. These figures represent livelihoods, small business stability, and the fiscal foundation of our communities.

These jobs are also high-quality jobs. The average annual wage in the trade and logistics sector is over \$90,000, more than 26 percent higher than the regional average across all industries. For many Southern California residents, especially in historically disadvantaged communities, these careers offer a pathway to the middle class.

The proposed ISR, if implemented, would have added new fees and regulatory mandates at a time when Southern California's trade and logistics businesses already face heightened competition from Gulf and East Coast ports, rising and uncertain tariffs on goods, infrastructure strain, and persistent workforce shortages. These businesses have invested heavily to comply with ambitious state and regional clean-air goals. The ports' cooperative plan avoids these risks while still moving forward with measures to improve air quality.

We urge the Board to move quickly to finalize and adopt this cooperative plan, ensuring that Southern California's economy remains strong while achieving continued improvements in air quality.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

African American Farmers of California
Almond Alliance
The American Waterways Operators
APM Terminals
Building Owners and Managers Association of California
California Automotive Wholesalers' Association
California Building Industry Association
California Business Properties Association
California Business Roundtable
California Chamber of Commerce
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association
California Manufacturers & Technology Association
California Retailers Association
Californians for Affordable and Reliable Energy
Central Valley Business Federation
Dairy Institute of California
El Dorado Almonds
Enzo Olive Oil Company, Inc.
Everport Terminal Services
Garden Grove Chamber of Commerce
Gemini Shippers Association
Greater Coachella Valley Chamber of Commerce

Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce
Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Inland Empire Economic Partnership
J.G. Boswell Company
Latino Consumer Federation
Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce
Los Angeles County Business Federation
Los Angeles Customs Brokers and Freight Forwarders Association
Maersk
Metro Ports
NAIOP-Inland Empire
NAIOP-SoCal
Nisei Farmers League
North American Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers
Northern Border Customs Brokers Association (NBCBA)
National Retail Federation
Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
Palomate Packing Company, Inc.
Pasadena Chamber of Commerce & Civic Association
Pet Food Institute
P-R Farms, Inc.
Ramirez Ag Labor Services
Juan Carlos Ramirez
Redondo Beach Chamber of Commerce
Retail Industry Leaders Association
San Gabriel Valley Economic Partnership
South Bay Association of Chambers of Commerce
Southern California Contractors Association
Southern California Leadership Council
Specialty Equipment Market Association
SSA Marine, Inc.
Supply Chain Federation
Valley Industry & Commerce Association
West Coast Marine Terminal Operators Agreement (WCMTOA)
West Hollywood Chamber of Commerce
Western Agricultural Processors Association
Western Propane Gas Association
Wilmington Chamber of Commerce
Yusen Terminals