



Los Angeles/Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council

Affiliated with the Building & Construction Trades Dept., AFL-CIO

November 3, 2025

To the Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District:

I, Ernesto Medrano, Executive Secretary for the Los Angeles and Orange Counties Building and Construction Trades Council, am writing to respectfully request support of the Cooperative Agreement negotiated by South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) staff with the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

The Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles move hundreds of billions in cargo every year, supporting millions of good paying jobs across the supply chain. The San Pedro Ports have had a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship, consistently demonstrating leadership in achieving historic reductions in emissions resulting in cleaner air for our communities.

The Cooperative Agreement enjoys the support of a diverse coalition of industry, labor, and community partners that have advocated for an alternative to a regulatory approach. The partnership is centered on the development of a zero-emissions infrastructure plan. The Ports have demonstrated their commitment to reducing port emissions by working with your staff to negotiate a meaningful agreement which includes strategies for reducing emissions, the development of specific timelines and milestones, enhanced transparency and public engagement, and enforcement mechanisms with financial penalties for failure to perform. The Cooperative Agreement presents a more effective, faster, and broadly supported path to achieving our shared clean air goals, and we strongly support the provisions of the agreement to pause rulemaking while the Agreement is in place to allow successful implementation.

The Cooperative Agreement provides tangible actions and aggressive timelines and builds upon the proven success of the original Clean Air Action Plan. In addition, the Ports have publicly stated their commitment to continue developing additional strategies around specific source categories, which could be adopted in the Spring of 2026. These efforts are in addition to the industry leading strategies that have helped the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles become the cleanest ports in the world, having reduced diesel emissions by over 90% over the last two decades.

We urge the Board to approve the Cooperative Agreement and continue working with the Ports to deliver results on cleaner air without risking jobs and cargo, ensuring a healthier, more sustainable future for our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ernesto Medrano".

Ernesto Medrano
Executive Secretary

EM: ag/OPEIU#537/afl-cio