

From: [Doug Benik](#)
To: [Vanessa Delgado](#) same email was addressed to two other BMs: Sup Perez and Mayor Dawson
Cc: [Sandra Hernandez \(Del\)](#); [Faye Thomas](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Oppose the Proposed Infrastructure Rule – Small Businesses Will Be Hurt
Date: Monday, May 19, 2025 11:05:45 AM

Dear Chair Delgado,

I'm Doug Benik and I'm the President of Dalena/Benik & Associates, a local commercial, personal lines, and crop insurance business that's proud to be part of the Central Valley's community. We currently employ 8 employees, and like many small business owners, I take pride in providing good jobs that help families put food on the table.

The reality is – we're struggling. Between rising costs, inflation, and reduced commissions, it's becoming harder to stay in business. These hardships also directly affect our growers, as they struggle to continue farming and purchasing crop insurance in light of regulation that makes it near impossible to do so. The last thing we need is another regulation that increases costs even more. That's why I strongly oppose the AQMD's proposed Infrastructure Rule. It will cause delays and farmers will face even more hardships.

I opposed the earlier Indirect Source Rule. Because of vocal opposition, AQMD staff renamed it an "Infrastructure Rule." Regardless of what you call it, it's still harmful and deserves a NO vote.

My business depends on efficient, affordable operations at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Delays or added costs from this rule would directly affect our customers, growers, employees, and bottom line. AQMD staff confirmed in a recent community meeting that this "Infrastructure Rule" is an Indirect Source Rule.

We need real solutions – not rules that hurt working people and local businesses. I urge AQMD to come to the table with industry, organized labor, and local leaders to negotiate a legally enforceable agreement that protects the environment and gives businesses, like mine, a voice.

Sincerely,

Doug Benik

Dalena/Benik & Associates