



Keeping Farmers Growing Since 1917

May 14, 2025

TO: Board of Directors, South Coast Air Quality Management District

VIA: E-Mail

RE: Proposed Infrastructure Rule - OPPOSE

Dear Directors:

Monterey County Farm Bureau represents family farmers and ranchers in the interest of protecting and promoting agriculture throughout our County. Since 1917, Farm Bureau strives to improve the ability of those engaged in production agriculture to provide a reliable supply of food and fiber through responsible stewardship of our local resources.

On behalf of our growers, shippers, and processor members, we express serious concerns about the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) proposed Infrastructure Rule.

As confirmed during a recent public workshop, this rule remains an *indirect source rule* – a regulatory framework that could lead to new fees, cargo caps, and supply chain disruptions; this is an unacceptable situation for a business community already under economic strain.

All of our Farm Bureau members are facing significant cost increases due to inflation and extreme tariffs on imported goods. These pressures are driving up prices across the spectrum, from raw materials to equipment to finished products, making it harder for businesses to compete and for families to afford everyday items. Adding another layer of costly and uncertain regulation would be a tipping point for many in the agricultural sector.

California's Agriculture economy depends on efficient cargo movement through the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Any policy that threatens to divert cargo or slow down port operations directly impacts jobs, wages, and economic growth in the region and throughout the state.

We urge SCAQMD to abandon the indirect source rule approach and instead work with stakeholders on a *legally binding negotiated agreement* that protects both air quality and economic vitality. The business community, including the agricultural sector, is committed to being part of the solution, but we must have a seat at the table.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Groot', is written over a horizontal line.

Norman C. Groot
Executive Director