



August 6, 2026

Governing Board
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Submitted via email: cob@aqmd.gov

RE: Agenda Item No. 30, Board Meeting of August 7, 2026 – Addendum to the Cooperative Agreement Between South Coast AQMD and the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles – SUPPORT

Dear Chair and Members of the Governing Board:

The Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce (HAIC) writes in strong support of the proposed Addendum to the Cooperative Agreement negotiated by South Coast AQMD staff with the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. HAIC represents the businesses, terminal operators, logistics providers, and service companies that work in and around the San Pedro Bay port complex every day. Our members are the people who will help put this agreement into practice.

The Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles move hundreds of billions of dollars in cargo every year and support millions of good-paying jobs across the supply chain. The San Pedro Bay ports have a long-standing commitment to environmental stewardship. They have delivered historic emission reductions and cleaner air for our communities, cutting diesel emissions by more than 90 percent over the last two decades even as cargo volumes grew. That record has made them the cleanest ports in the world.

The proposed Addendum builds on the collaborative framework of the original Cooperative Agreement, which the three parties executed in December 2025. That agreement requires both ports to complete comprehensive zero-emission infrastructure plans, the critical first step toward zero-emission port operations. The Addendum now adds tangible near-term measures: enhanced clean ship incentive programs to attract the cleanest ocean-going vessels, a new incentive program to encourage zero-emission trucks serving the ports, and new investment in regional charging and fueling infrastructure beyond the port gates.

HAIC offers its support for four reasons.

First, the Addendum preserves a cooperative, negotiated approach rather than a unilateral regulatory one. HAIC's members operate in and around the harbor every day. We have consistently found that durable emission reductions come from agreements developed jointly by the regulator, the ports, and the businesses that must actually implement them. The three-party

structure keeps all parties accountable while allowing strategies to adjust as technology and infrastructure mature.

Second, the Addendum correctly prioritizes infrastructure before mandates. Zero-emission equipment cannot deploy at scale without charging capacity, grid upgrades, and utility coordination in place first. By directing new investment toward regional charging and fueling infrastructure, the Addendum addresses the single greatest practical barrier our members face in transitioning fleets. It does so in a way that benefits operators throughout the region, not only at the terminal gate.

Third, the Addendum protects the economic engine that funds this transition. The harbor complex sustains an enormous base of employment across trucking, warehousing, logistics, manufacturing, and the small businesses that serve them. An approach that maintains cargo competitiveness at the San Pedro Bay ports keeps that cargo, and its associated emissions, from diverting to ports with far weaker environmental standards. Diversion would worsen regional and global air quality while eliminating local jobs.

Fourth, the ports have earned this confidence through performance. A reduction of more than 90 percent in diesel emissions over two decades, achieved while cargo volumes grew, is a demonstrated record rather than a promise. The Addendum extends that record with concrete new commitments on truck and vessel emissions, backed by public process, reporting, and program evaluation requirements.

For these reasons, HAIC respectfully urges the Governing Board to adopt the resolution and authorize execution of the Addendum to the Cooperative Agreement. Doing so will help the ports continue to deliver cleaner air while supporting jobs and cargo, ensuring a healthier, more sustainable, and prosperous future for our communities. We appreciate the work of South Coast AQMD staff and port leadership in reaching this agreement, and we stand ready to partner in its implementation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Henry Rogers", is positioned above the printed name.

Henry Rogers

Executive Director

Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce