



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

February 19, 2025

Chair Delgado, Committee Chair McCallon, and Members of the Stationary Source Committee
South Coast Air Quality Management District

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**RE: Stationary Source Committee Agenda Item 2 – Support for Strong Zero-NOx
Amendments to Rules 1111 and 1121**

Dear Chair Delgado, Committee Chair McCallon, and Members of the Stationary Source
Committee:

We strongly support efforts to clean up appliance pollution through the adoption of zero-NOx standards. Adopting robust measures to address appliance pollution will help the South Coast Air Quality Management District align more closely with the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan, which concluded that “[t]he only way to achieve the required NOx reductions is through extensive use of zero-emission technologies across all stationary and mobile sources.”¹

Achieving the full potential of these rules is critical to reducing emissions from residential and commercial appliances and addressing our region’s persistent air quality crisis. **We urge you to stay the course and adopt these long overdue amendments no later than May.**

It is essential, however, that Rule 1111 and 1121 maximize NOx reductions in line with their original intent—to establish a Zero-NOx rule for appliances that contribute greatly to the region’s pollution. The latest proposal introduces additional concessions that weaken the rule’s impact. These changes are not necessary to achieve a workable transition, and they risk undermining the health benefits the rule was designed to deliver.

We believe this rule can still maintain its strength with targeted improvements that accelerate compliance timelines and establish more robust mitigation fees. While the latest revisions, which center “choice” as their orienting principle, can be a workable framework, the Committee should

¹ South Coast AQMD, 2022 AQMP, at Executive Summary.

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recognize that an individual's choice to install a polluting appliance harms society by locking in NOx pollution and its corresponding impacts on public health. The proposed *de minimis* mitigation fee does not reflect these harms and therefore does not function to adequately mitigate their impact and is therefore insufficient to shift the market to zero-emission options. The low fee also limits potential funding that could otherwise ensure more communities have an opportunity to participate in this transition. Moreover, the slow ramp-up in zero-emission manufacturer requirements needlessly delays the air quality benefits of this rule.

Accordingly, to meet the District's zero-emissions objectives, we urge the following modifications be included in the final rule:

- **Mitigation Fees Must Reflect Emissions Impact:** Fees should reflect the cost of emissions impacts and be structured to support funding for equitable access to zero-emission technologies.
- **Stronger Manufacturer Requirements:** The final rule should accelerate compliance percentage targets for manufacturers so that more zero-emission appliances are made available sooner.

With these adjustments, Rules 1111 and 1121 can remain strong and effective in delivering the NOx reductions our region urgently needs. We appreciate the Committee's leadership in advancing policies that improve air quality and protect public health, and we urge you to ensure these rules come before the Governing Board in May, get adopted, and start fulfilling their intended purpose of decreasing appliance pollution.

Sincerely,



Fernando Gaytan
Earthjustice



Adrian Martinez
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CC: Wayne Nastri, Michael Krause, Heather Farr