

South Coast Air Quality Management District Mandates

Date March 15, 2025
To South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) ([REDACTED])
Redlands City Councilmembers (thru City Clerk [REDACTED])
[REDACTED] (Upland City Councilmember)
From Sam Wong, MD FACP
Subj City Council Agenda J-5 (Mandatory Transition to Zero-Emission Appliances)

I understand that SCAQMD is proposing a mandatory transition to zero-emission appliances under Rule 1111 (Natural Gas-Fired Furnaces) and Rule 1121 (Water Heaters). The reported intent of this new policy was to eliminate nitrogen oxide emissions which are reported to be a key contributor to smog. I strongly encourage that the Redlands City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter to SCAQMD on behalf of the City Council in **opposition to Proposed Amended Rule 1111 and Proposed Amended Rule 1121**.

https://destinyhosted.com/agenda_publish.cfm?id=73352&mt=ALL&vl=true&get_month=3&get_year=2025&dsp=agm&seq=6049&rev=0&ag=453&ln=23476&nseq=6039&nrev=0&pseq=6011&prev=0#ReturnTo23476

While there may be financial incentives for those who implement such a transition, those incentives ultimately are sourced from taxpayers – NOT the state or local governments. In addition, such financial incentives are often given as a single episode as the resident transitions at the beginning but not throughout the course of the use of the zero-emission appliance(s). As a taxpayer, I am opposed to such misleading “incentives.”

Conversion costs are often not cost-neutral to those who have limited and fixed income. Implementing such a costly and unnecessary mandate would be discriminatory (particularly age and race/national origin). I would not be surprised if costly litigation arises against SCAQMD on the implementation of such a mandate. Although you may brush such legal costs aside since “the government” will often absorb the costs, I would not be surprised if the tax-paying public will be informed of who specifically signed off on such costly mandates. Un-elected officials are also accountable to the taxpayers.

Sole reliance on a single energy source is fraught with energy-delivery vulnerabilities. We have seen major societal catastrophes when communities relied only on electricity during freezing climate. All successful and well-planned communities have source and process redundancies. That is so very basic to safe and intelligent governance! (Why do you suppose humans have two arms, two legs, two lungs, etc.?)

Respectfully,

Sam Wong, MD FACP
Clinical Professor of Medicine

Disclosure

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