



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

Pat Burns | Mayor

May 29, 2025

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

Dear South Coast Air Quality Management District Board Members,

I respectfully write in opposition to the proposed SCAQMD Rules 1111 and 1121 and urge the Board to indefinitely delay or withdraw these regulations.

While the intent to improve air quality is commendable, the current proposal to mandate electrification of furnaces and water heaters—impacting over 17 million residents—is deeply concerning. These rules would force homeowners and businesses to eliminate the use of natural gas and transition to electric appliances within just two years, without sufficient consideration for the broader consequences.

The proposed rules have not demonstrated clear, substantive air quality benefits for Orange County residents. However, they would impose significant financial burdens, especially on homeowners and renters who are already struggling with California's housing affordability crisis. Retrofitting older homes to accommodate new electric units—including structural modifications, rewiring, and electrical upgrades—can cost tens of thousands of dollars. These costs will disproportionately affect lower-income households and small business owners, who are least able to afford them.

Moreover, the strain on California's aging and unreliable electrical grid cannot be ignored. Increased demand could heighten the risk of blackouts, service interruptions, and public safety hazards—especially in light of recent wildfires caused by overloaded power lines. It is also troubling that several residential and commercial projects are already delayed due to insufficient electrical capacity.

Water heaters and furnaces are not luxury items—they are essential. Mandating their replacement without affordable alternatives or adequate infrastructure in place is both premature and potentially harmful. While we recognize the District's aim to reduce emissions, these mandates do not provide a balanced or equitable approach.

I respectfully urge the Board to explore more practical and economically feasible alternatives that protect both our environment and our communities. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,