



Councilman Sean H. Mill Ward 5

April 25, 2025

Governing Board

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

RE: Strong Opposition to Proposed Amended Rules (PAR) 1111 and 1121

Dear Members of the Governing Board,

I am writing to you not only as an elected official, but as a lifelong advocate for the working families of our region, to express my deep opposition to the Proposed Amended Rules (PAR) 1111 and 1121 currently under consideration by the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

There is no question that clean air is critical to public health and our future. However, these proposed amendments—while well-intentioned—threaten to place an untenable burden on our working-class residents and further erode the dream of homeownership for thousands of families across Southern California.

These rules, which seek to impose stricter NOx emissions standards on residential and commercial natural gas appliances, will significantly raise the cost of essential home systems such as furnaces and water heaters. For working families already grappling with record housing costs, inflation, and economic uncertainty, the added expense of retrofitting or replacing these appliances will be devastating. Many simply cannot afford thousands of dollars in unexpected upgrades—especially when viable, cost-effective alternatives are not yet widely available or practical for older housing stock.

Furthermore, these mandates risk driving up the overall cost of new home construction and renovation—further compounding the region's already dire housing affordability crisis. Builders, contractors, and developers have made it clear that such regulations will lead to higher material and labor costs, longer project timelines, and reduced housing supply. The downstream effect is clear: higher prices and fewer opportunities for homeownership, especially for first-time buyers and young families.

In communities like mine, where families are working multiple jobs just to keep up with rent or save for a down payment, this is simply unacceptable. It is imperative that we do not pursue environmental goals at the expense of economic justice. Our policies must be both environmentally sound and socially equitable.

I urge you to reconsider these amendments and instead seek a more balanced, phased approach—one that provides time for innovation, financial incentives for compliance, and true collaboration with local governments, housing advocates, and industry leaders. We must ensure that our push for cleaner air does not come at the cost of opportunity, stability, and dignity for the very people we are trying to protect.

Thank you for your consideration and your continued service to our region.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. H. Mill', with a stylized, cursive script.

Councilman Sean H. Mill
City of Riverside, Ward 5