



May 19th, 2025

Hon. Vanessa Delgado, Chair
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

RE: OPPOSE – Proposed Amended Rules 1111 & 1121

Dear Chair Delgado and Honorable Members of the Governing Board:

On behalf of the Redlands Chamber of Commerce, which represents the voice of the Redlands business community and advocates for policies that foster economic vitality, job growth, and a sustainable quality of life, we respectfully submit this letter in opposition to the Proposed Amended Rules (PAR) 1111 and 1121 as publicly noticed on April 29, 2025.

While we acknowledge the Air District's intent to improve air quality in Southern California, we are concerned that the amended rules, though slightly revised, still fail to address the economic realities and infrastructure challenges that our local businesses and residents face.

The proposed amendments would significantly increase costs for homeowners and small businesses in our region. Requiring the adoption of all-electric space and water heating systems, which cost significantly more than traditional natural gas appliances, or imposing higher fees on manufacturers that are ultimately passed on to consumers, places an unfair burden on working families and small business owners. Estimates show that these mandates would cost consumers over \$300 million annually, or \$7.7 billion over the typical 25-year lifespan of these appliances.

Furthermore, these rules do not account for the high retrofit and infrastructure costs necessary to accommodate electric alternatives, especially for older commercial and residential buildings common in Redlands. In many cases, those expenses could reach tens of thousands of dollars, disproportionately affecting those who can least afford it, including fixed-income residents, renters, and mom-and-pop businesses.



Additionally, shifting toward a fully electric infrastructure without addressing current grid limitations is short-sighted. Our region continues to face blackouts, energy shortages, and public safety risks related to power line failures, some of which have resulted in devastating wildfires. Several local development and revitalization projects are already stalled due to inadequate power availability, further hampering economic growth.

While the Redlands Chamber of Commerce supports thoughtful, science-based environmental progress, we believe the current proposal imposes too great a cost without a clear and equitable path forward. We urge the South Coast AQMD to consider more balanced approaches, such as enhancing ultra-low NOx standards for natural gas appliances, that could deliver cleaner air without jeopardizing affordability, business stability, or energy reliability.

We appreciate your time and consideration of our concerns. We respectfully request that the Board vote to oppose the current version of Proposed Amended Rules 1111 and 1121 and instead pursue alternative solutions. We would be happy to provide some, if asked for input.

Sincerely,

Evan Sanford
Executive Director
Redlands Chamber of Commerce

cc: Members of the Governing Board