



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

Re: LABOR SUPPORT - Proposed Rules 1111 and 1121

Dear Chair Delgado and Members of the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board,

On behalf of the Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) Local Union 105 and our more than 7,000 members across Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties, **we write to express our strong support for the proposed SCAQMD Rules 1111 and 1121.** These rules represent an important step forward in improving air quality, creating high-road job opportunities, and helping California reach its goal of installing six million heat pumps by 2030.

Known as the “Heat Pump Union,” we install and service both traditional gas units and electric heat pumps. **Our union understands firsthand the urgency of transitioning to clean, all-electric building systems.** Adopting heat pump technology will significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions and improve regional air quality by phasing out fossil fuel-based appliances and reducing harmful pollutants like nitrogen oxides (NOx), particulate matter (PM), and volatile organic compounds (VOCs)—all major contributors to smog and respiratory disease. The proposed rules are aligned with SCAQMD’s mission to protect public health and provide clean air for all.

In addition to environmental benefits, this transition offers a major economic opportunity—especially for the unionized skilled trades. Retrofitting buildings with high-efficiency heat pumps will create thousands of high-quality union jobs. To maximize the impact, we urge the SCAQMD to incorporate a Responsible Contractor Policy and enforce strong workforce standards within the associated incentive programs. Doing so will ensure fair wages, reliable training pathways, and support for our more than 750 apprentices who require on-the-job training to complete their programs.

We commend SCAQMD’s commitment to the Go Zero incentive programs, which help ensure equitable access to clean energy upgrades, especially in low-income communities that are most affected by air pollution. These programs are not only essential for equity, **they are also job creators.** By supporting cleaner buildings, the Go Zero initiative strengthens the regional economy while improving public health.

We respectfully urge the SCAQMD Board to adopt the proposed rules and to work with staff to embed workforce standards and a Responsible Contractor Policy into the rollout of these programs. SMART Local 105 and our members stand ready to help lead this transition. We look



forward to continued partnership in achieving a clean, just, and prosperous future for Southern California.

Thank you for your leadership and commitment to air quality and clean energy. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "F. Ochoa", is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

Fernando Ochoa

Political Director

Sheet Metal, Air, Rail and Transportation Workers (SMART) Local Union No. 105

Email: Fchoa@local105.org

Cell: (562) 308-6926