

## Peter Campbell

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**From:** Vincent Petroleum Inc. <206chevron@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 13, 2026 1:26 PM  
**To:** Peter Campbell; Sina Taghvaei; Xian-Liang (Tony) Tian; COB; Clerk of Board  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Opposition to Proposed Rule 311 (Permit Fee Increases) – May 1st Hearing

To the South Coast AQMD Board,

I am writing as a local business owner in West Covina to express my **total opposition** to the proposed 3.2% fee increase and the addition of new administrative fees.

The timing of this proposal shows a complete lack of regard for the economic reality facing California small businesses and consumers. We are currently navigating an extreme energy crisis where gas prices are hovering near **\$6.00 per gallon**. My customers are already under immense financial pressure due to this "gas price madness," and my business is struggling to maintain margins amidst rising operational costs.

As a station owner, I want the Board to understand the following:

- **Passed-on Costs:** Every dollar increase in AQMD fees is a cost that must eventually be passed on to the consumer. At a time when the public is struggling to afford the commute to work, the government should be looking for ways to reduce fees, not increase them.
- **Operational Burden:** Between Gasoline, Diesel, and E85, we are already one of the most heavily regulated and taxed industries in the state. Adding a "Cost of Living Adjustment" for a government agency while small business owners are seeing their own cost of living skyrocket is unfair and unsustainable.
- **Economic Hostility:** Proposing fee increases during a period of record-high fuel prices feels like an act of economic hostility toward the very businesses that keep the state moving.

I strongly urge the Board to **reject the 3.2% increase** and instead find internal budget efficiencies to cover your administrative costs. Our community cannot afford another price hike at the pump, even if it is hidden in the form of regulatory fees.

Sincerely,

**Saeed Manshadi**  
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