



September 30, 2021

Chair Benoit and Members of the Board  
Governing Board  
South Coast Air Quality Management District ("South Coast AQMD")  
[cob@aqmd.gov](mailto:cob@aqmd.gov)

**Re: Agenda Item No. 2B- Set Hearing for Refinery NOx Rule**

Dear Chair Benoit and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we write regarding Proposed Rule 1109.1. We have actively and in good faith participated in the rulemaking process for this rule for years. All the while, our members and supporters have continued to suffer from pollution levels from refineries that exceed what would occur if they had adopted state-of-the-art technology that has been readily available for more than a decade. We are at the point where we need to end the debate and call the question at the Board. Will this Board have the courage to adopt a life-saving regulation that will achieve more emissions reductions than any stationary source rule adopted in the last decade? We hope the answer is yes, but recent analysis conducted by staff make the decision all the more easy.

The only reason opposition is happening over this rule stems from oil companies' desires to protect their shareholders' interests. The socioeconomic analysis, which is very conservative, shows that this rule will create thousands of jobs a year. At its peak in 2032, this rule will create more than 4,400 jobs.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, the rule will save 370 lives, prevent more

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<sup>1</sup> South Coast AQMD, Draft Socioeconomic Report for Draft Socioeconomic Impact Assessment For Proposed Rule 1109.1 – Emissions of Oxides of Nitrogen from Petroleum Refineries and Related Operations Proposed Rule 429.1 – Startup and Shutdown Provisions at Petroleum Refineries and Related Operations Proposed Amended Rule 1304 – Exemptions Proposed Amended Rule 2005 – New Source Review for RECLAIM, at p. ES-7, available at [1109-1-draft-socioeconomic-impact-assessment-090721-merged.pdf](https://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/1109-1-draft-socioeconomic-impact-assessment-090721-merged.pdf) ([aqmd.gov](https://www.aqmd.gov)).

than 6,200 asthma attacks, and prevent more than 21,000 missed workdays.<sup>2</sup> If passing a rule that saves hundreds of lives, keeps kids in school instead of at home with respiratory problems, and allows our economy to be even more productive is so controversial, then we have to question what this agency is doing.

We recognize that powerful and entrenched interests have spent years delaying and weakening this rule. And, we recognize that these same interests have sought to make it hard for public officials to stand for public health and job creation over the parochial interests of individual oil companies. But, too many lives are on the line, and we need you to have the courage to take this basic step that is so clearly in the public interest. This rule is not perfect, and we would like it to be much stronger. For example, this rule provides a decade to install life-saving pollution controls that should have been installed a decade or more ago. But, the more time we continue to waste in debates, the more people will get sick and die. Let's make 2021 the year the South Coast AQMD passes an important regulation to clean up warehouses and the most significant South Coast refinery pollution measure in a decade.

We appreciate your consideration of these comments, and we look forward to courageous debate placing the interest of public health in the forefront during the Stationary Source Committee this week.

Sincerely,

Oscar Espino Padron  
Byron Chan  
Adrian Martinez  
**Earthjustice**

Maya Golden-Krasner  
**Center for Biological Diversity**

Chris Chavez  
**Coalition for Clean Air**

David Pettit  
**Natural Resources Defense Council**

Jane Williams  
**California Communities Against Toxics**

Alicia Rivera  
Ashley Hernandez  
Alison Hahm  
Julia May  
**Communities for a Better Environment**

Taylor Thomas  
Jan Victor  
Whitney Amaya  
**East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice**

Monica Embrey  
Nicole Levin  
**Sierra Club**

cc: Wayne Nastri

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<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at p. ES-8.