



Chair Delgado and Members of the Governing Board
South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD)
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765
Email: vdelgado@aqmd.gov
Clerk of the Board, clerkofboard@aqmd.gov

RE: Strong Support for Proposed Amended Rules 1111 and 1121

Dear Chair Delgado and Members of the Board:

The Healing and Justice Center (healingandjusticecenter.org) is a community-driven organization rooted in the principles of healing justice, which seeks to address the interconnected harms of systemic oppression, trauma, and environmental inequities. We are dedicated to advancing health equity, racial justice, and the well-being of underserved communities in Southern California. Our work focuses on creating healing-centered spaces and advocating for policies that dismantle structural barriers to health and safety, particularly for communities disproportionately impacted by environmental hazards.

Air quality is a critical component of healing justice, as the communities we serve often bear the brunt of pollution and its cascading effects on physical, mental, and emotional health. Poor air quality exacerbates systemic inequities, contributing to chronic illnesses such as asthma, heart disease, and other respiratory conditions, while also deepening the trauma experienced by marginalized populations. For us, clean air is not just an environmental issue—it is a matter of justice, healing, and collective liberation. We are committed to supporting policies that reduce harmful emissions and ensure that all communities, especially those most impacted, can breathe freely and live with dignity.

Healing and Justice Center strongly supports South Coast AQMD's efforts to clean up appliance pollution through amending Rules 1111 and 1121. This proposed regulatory package will achieve more emissions reductions than any other effort passed in over three decades. The effort is also consistent with the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP), which determined that "[t]he only way to achieve the required NOx reductions is through extensive use of zero-emission technologies across all stationary and mobile sources."

South Coast AQMD, 2022 AQMP, at Executive Summary.

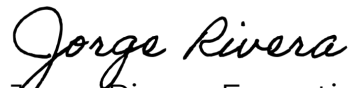


Given the serious pollution in this region, these health gains from advancing zero-emissions are desperately needed for millions of people. We are deeply concerned that the proposal is getting weakened through delaying compliance deadlines and many loopholes. We encourage staff to reject these efforts to reduce the efficacy of the rule.

It is crucial that these rules go to the Governing Board in a strong form and be adopted in May. The adoption of these rule amendments is necessary to transition households and businesses away from appliances with known health harms. South Coast residents face a significant air pollution burden, and tackling Nitrogen Oxide (NOx) emissions will decrease formation of ozone and PM 2.5.

We appreciate AQMD staff's significant work on these proposed amendments to Rules 1111 and 1121. Wrapping up this rulemaking process as soon as possible, so we can work on the important aspects of truly transitioning away from combustion in our homes.

Sincerely,



Jorge Rivera, Executive Co-Director
Healing and Justice Center

CC: Wayne Nastri, Michael Krause, Heather Farr

