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October 16th, 2024

The Honorable Vanessa Delgado
Chair South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board
21865 Copley Dr.
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

To: The Honorable Vanessa Delgado

From: Inland Empire Economic Partnership

RE: Proposed Amended Rules (PAR) 1111 & 1121

Dear South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board and the Honorable Vanessa Delgado,

The Inland Empire Economic Partnership (IEEP) is writing to express our opposition to Proposed Amended Rules 1111 and 1121. While we recognize and value the intention of the South Coast Air Quality Management Board (SCAQMD) in reducing NOx emissions to promote clean energy usage and protect the longevity of our changing environmental needs, PAR 1111 and PAR 1121 directly place our Inland Empire communities in a disadvantageous fiscal position that harms the residents and businesses within our region.

Economic Impact on the Region

With an average personal annual income nearly doubled below the state average, our concern lies with the anticipated increase in costs for installation, maintenance, and compliance for Inland Empire residents. The disproportionate fiscal impact PAR 1111 and 1121 would have on the region, in an effort to effectively meet zero-emission compliance standards, would further the financial disparity already seen across the Inland Empire, creating a wider divide between economic mobility and a stagnant or decreasing financial standing of Inland Empire residents.

Burden on Small Businesses

PAR 1111 and 1121 act as foundational efforts in the rise of burgeoning costs for small businesses, including, but not limited to, installation fees, certification and labeling fees, and mitigation fees. These additional costs have a realistic potential force to reduce the profitability of local small business, and in some cases, aid in closure of regional businesses altogether.

3403 Tenth Street, Suite 300
Riverside, California, 92508
Phone: (909) 944 – 2201
www.ieep.com

While we support the goal of adapting our environmental plans for the betterment of our regional and state-wide communities, PAR 1111 and 1121 create unrealistic standards and schedules that place Inland Empire residents and businesses in an immovable and detrimental financial position, with the potential for long-term counterproductive effects.

We urge SCAQMD to continue their efforts in reducing NOx emissions in a feasible manner, with a manageable and flexible schedule that best serves the individuals and businesses that will be directly impacted by their installation.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Paul Granillo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "P".

Paul Granillo
President & CEO
Inland Empire Economic Partnership