



Dr. William A. Burke
Chairman
South Coast Air Quality Management
District Governing Board
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

Tuesday, August 29, 2017

RE: ban MHF

Dear Chairman Burke and the Governing Board:

I am writing to convey my support of SCAQMD Proposed Rule 1410 banning the use of hydrofluoric (HF) and modified hydrofluoric acid (MHF) alkylation in refineries.

HF/MHF, if accidentally released, will create a dense, ground-hugging fog that, depending on the amount released, could travel up to 16 miles in sufficient concentration to cause death or irreparable injury to those who are in its path, putting many of South Bay residents at risk.

The Torrance Refinery, which has experienced repeated safety issues, including explosions, chemical releases and fires in the last several years, uses MHF. The residents of Torrance and the surrounding communities have become alarmed by the potential for an accidental release of HF/MHF leading to a catastrophe in their residential neighborhoods and business areas.

I urge the SCAQMD to speedily complete the rulemaking process and to ban the use of HF and MHF alkylation. Such action would further the District's progress toward improving protections for refinery workers, surrounding neighborhoods, the environment, and protect the economy of Southern California from a catastrophic incident.

Thank you for undertaking this important rulemaking process.

For the future,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jimmy Gow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Jimmy Gow, President,
on behalf of the Executive Board
of the **Torrance Democratic Club**