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# CITY OF TORRANCE

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MILTON S. HERRING, I  
COUNCILMAN

April 24, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Burke,

I am writing to express my support for the process of South Coast Air Quality Management District in regards to the Torrance and Wilmington refineries use of modified hydrofluoric acid (MHF). I continue to maintain that safety of our residents is paramount, and I am encouraged by recent efforts to enhance safety systems at the refinery.

Refining and manufacturing have long been a part of the Torrance landscape. The Torrance Refinery has operated since 1929, and plays a vital role in sustained economic development. As a Torrance Councilmember, I am concerned that an MHF phase-out could cause Torrance and Wilmington refineries to eventually close. The results could impact thousands of local jobs, surrounding businesses, and our region's energy infrastructure. Many of the employees live in Torrance, and these good-paying jobs, the taxes, property, utility users and business license fees paid the refinery, amount to more than \$ 9.5 million annually.

The California Air Resources Board (CARB) submitted a report on April 23, 2018. The report recommended ways to improve emergency air monitoring, as well as monitoring of ongoing routine emissions, at California's major refineries and the communities that surround them. The recommendations cover air monitoring technology, modeling, and coordination.

I strongly support the continued research for alternative solutions such as solid acid and liquid ionic catalyst processes.

To be clear, I am not just interested in the bottom line, my primary concern is the safety and health of our residents. The City of Torrance has been awarded \$2,771,250 from the refinery. On December 19, 2017, the City Council approved agreements to provide enhanced community notifications. Per City Staff recommendations, Sonoma Technology will set up the fence line and community air monitoring systems. I would encourage SCAQMD to continue to work with all the stakeholders, focus on the facts to find a reasonable solution that ensures the safe and continued operation of these key economic engines for our region.

Sincerely,

Milton S. Herring, I