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March 24, 2016

William Burke, Chairman and Members of the Board
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, California 91765-4178

Dear Chairman Burke and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the Board of Directors of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), I am writing to express our concern about the recent changes made by the SCAQMD Governing Board to replace its Executive Director. The cities of the South Bay have appreciated AQMD's willingness and Dr. Wallerstein's accessibility to partner with them in working on issues that affect our cities. Most recently, AQMD's work with the City of Torrance and key community stakeholders concerning the air quality issues at the ExxonMobil refinery has been very helpful.

Even with all of the efforts to date, the basin is still not meeting the federal standards. Therefore, the SCAQMD has a critical role in oversight of air quality issues in our communities and we believe that it is imperative that the agency maintains the high standards that have led to the air quality gains that have been made.

We urge you to fill the Executive Director's position expeditiously with someone who exemplifies the high standards that have been set by Dr. Wallerstein to carry out the mission of the SCAQMD and maintain the sensitivity that he showed to local jurisdictions' concerns and opportunities for strategic partnerships.

The SBCCOG and our cities look forward to partnering with the SCAQMD when needed to address air quality concerns of our constituents and the region.

Sincerely,

Jim Gazeley, SBCCOG Chair
Mayor, City of Lomita

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN ACTION

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