

February 20, 2025

BOARD

Vincent Chang

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Chair Delgado, Committee Chair McCallon,
Members of the Governing Board
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

RE: Stationary Source Committee Agenda Item No. 2 – Strong Support for Appliance Rule Amendments to Rules 1111 and 1121

Dear Chair Delgado, Committee Chair McCallon, and Members of the Board:

As a community-based organization committed to realizing a more sustainable, equitable, and livable San Gabriel Valley, ActiveSGV strongly supports local efforts grounded in evidence-based policies to reduce air pollution, including amending Rules 1111 and 1121.

If done correctly, amending Rules 1111 and 1121 to achieve zero-NOx for furnaces and water heaters will achieve more emissions reductions than any other effort passed in over three decades. Getting to zero-NOx for these appliances 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.”¹ **The current approach developed by staff addresses the concerns of critics, whose continued opposition fails to acknowledge the district’s worst-in-nation ozone pollution.** We need the Board to be an effective regulator that recognizes the tremendous health and economic benefits of adopting rules to clean up appliance pollution.

After more than a year of vetting, District staff have developed a proposal that will allow people to purchase fossil fuel combusting products if they wish to do so, while also encouraging further deployment of healthier, zero-emitting appliances. The staff have struck a compromise, but there are **two ways we encourage the proposal be strengthened:**

- 1) Increase compliance percentage targets for manufacturers; and**
- 2) Make mitigation fees consistent with emissions impacts.**

As a public health organization headquartered in El Monte, one of the most pollution-burdened communities in California, ActiveSGV is acutely aware of the health

¹ South Coast AQMD, 2022 AQMP, at Executive Summary.

impacts associated with air pollution. The outcomes of our poor air quality in southern California are devastating. High rates of asthma and other respiratory illnesses, as well as cognitive impairments, some cancers, and even obesity have all been linked to exposure to high levels of air pollution. The cost of these health disparities -- particularly long-term, chronic illnesses such as asthma -- is billions in associated healthcare and diminished productivity to Los Angeles County. The time is now to adopt clear rules and take a significant step to achieve clear air for our communities.

We urge you to adopt these rules in May, so we can set a market signal and start doing the work of getting the burning of fossil fuels out of our buildings.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact me at david@activeSGV.org.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Diaz".

David Diaz, MPH
Executive Director