

SHREYAS SUDHAKAR

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Board Members
South Coast AQMD
By Email

SCAQMD Board Members:

My name is Shreyas Sudhakar, and I'm the owner of Vayu, a HVAC installation company based in the San Francisco Bay Area. Later this year, my business will be expanding its operations to the Greater Los Angeles area. I'm writing this letter in support of the Proposed Amended Rule 1111.

Through my career, I've installed 50+ HVAC systems across California, including in the SCAQMD territory. Every single one of those systems has been a heat pump, replacing an outdated gas or electric appliance. Heat pump technology is mature, proven, and robust, and well suited for the climate conditions in California. My installation team is trained and ready to install these systems, as are those of my peers.

Heat pumps offer many benefits to homeowners. Beyond broader air quality and safety improvements, they can lead to quieter and more comfortable homes. Replacing an existing air conditioner and furnace with a heat pump is essentially a direct swap, and there are proven pathways to retrofit even those homes that don't currently have air conditioning. When considering rebates and incentives available, it is almost always more economical for a homeowner to choose a new heat pump system over a new furnace paired with a traditional air conditioner.

Manufacturers continue to innovate, offering solutions that are specifically tailored for California. For example, Goodman, Midea, and Advanced Distributor Products all offer 120V heat pump air handler units, which can be direct swaps for standard gas furnaces. Gree, MRCOOL, and AC Pro all offer high efficiency inverter packaged heat pump systems, which

can replace rooftop package furnaces and ACs. These are just a few examples of technology improvements over the past few years, and new equipment continues to be introduced making it easier to install heat pumps in existing homes.

Additionally, heat pumps are more reliable than the complex ultra-low NOx gas furnaces that are being installed today based on current SCAQMD guidelines. An all-electric heat pump system has fewer failure points than an equivalent air conditioner paired with a matching ultra-low NOx gas furnace. Homeowners will have fewer maintenance issues if they make the transition to a heat pump today.

Leadership from local authorities like yours play a key role in facilitating this transition. It helps companies like mine know that we are making the right decision by investing in training and workforce development focused around heat pump technology, generating quality, high paying jobs in the region. It helps manufacturers set their roadmaps for products, prioritizing technology for the California market. And it helps customers understand that this technology is viable and worth installing in their homes.

I was disappointed to hear that the latest proposal for these rules changes softens transition targets and allows NOx emitting equipment sales to continue through 2036 and beyond. The original proposal was both ambitious and achievable.

I urge the board to not compromise, and target a full phaseout of NOx emitting appliances as quickly as possible. Both the technology and ability to install are already in place, and it is in the best interests of all of your constituents to move as quickly as possible in this transition.

I am here to support in whatever way I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shreyas Sudhakar', with a stylized, looping flourish at the end.

Shreyas Sudhakar