

Dear California Air Resources Board Members:

As organizations representing millions of underprivileged and minority consumers across California, we urge you to vote “yes” on the strongest possible Advanced Clean Cars Program standards at your January board meeting.

Ensuring strong clean car standards protects Californians, especially children, the poor, and people of color, all of who suffer disproportionately from health problems caused by vehicle emissions. Cleaner car standards also encourage efficiency that help cars go farther on a gallon of gas, which will help to protect our clients and their families from high gas prices.

Now is the time to push for even cleaner, more efficient cars.

Every year, at least 9,200 premature deaths can be attributed to California’s air quality according to the American Lung Association. Researchers at the University of Southern California recently found that even short-term exposure to traffic pollution causes brain damage.^{1, 2}

High capacity roads and highways are often located in urban areas near low-income communities and schools, where people of color, low-income consumers and their children are disproportionately affected by smog and other tailpipe pollution.^{3, 4}

The Air Resources Board must not delay the highest possible standards. Our most vulnerable communities demand conviction and steadfastness.

Analysts say gas prices might be headed to record highs in 2012, with some expecting regular gasoline to climb as high as \$4.59 in California.⁴

Our communities – and those in states across the nation - are counting on California to lead America to a cleaner, healthier and more affordable future. We all urge you to vote “yes” on the strongest possible Advanced Clean Cars standards at the CARB meeting in January.

Sincerely,

Community groups, community group staff that serve low and middle income consumers, people of color and limited-English-speaking consumers:

Groups

Ken McEldowney, Executive Director, Consumer Action, San Francisco
Sharon Hillery, Executive Director, Fair Housing Consultants, Lakewood
Leticia Bejarano, YWCA, Monterey

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Group Staff

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Kay Ikuta, Inglewood Public Library, Inglewood
Carlos Vargas, Springboard Nonprofit, Riverside
Marlene Tran, Visitacion Valley Asian Alliance (VVAA), San Francisco

Consumers

Nancy Theresa Mominguarpok Inotowok, Oakland
Hoang Ho, Oakland
Christy Cofer, Discovery Bay
Eva E. Cadena, San Bernardino
Loistine Herndon, Highland
Michael B Eppley, Pacific
Gilbert Grijalva, Imperial
Vinh Kim Vu, Alameda
Estella G. Mojica, Los Angeles
Jorge Vera, Los Angeles
Mary Howard, Simi Valley
Victor Bonanno, Sacramento
Marta Stern, Altadena
Kevin M. Davison, (City Unknown)
Leif Lovegren, Irvine
Diana Martinez, Anaheim
Muriel Young

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1. American Lung Association in California. State of the Air 2010: www.stateoftheair.org
 2. "The Effect of Air Pollution on Lung Development from 10 to 18 Years of Age," *The New England Journal of Medicine*: <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa040610>
 3. "Low-Income, Minority Communities Disproportionately Exposed To Toxic Air Pollutants, Study Finds," *Medical News Today*:
<http://www.medicalnewstoday.com/releases/148257.php>
 4. "Gas prices might be headed to record highs in 2012, analysts say," *The Los Angeles Times*, November 8, 2011, by Ronald D. White:
<http://articles.latimes.com/2011/nov/08/business/la-fi-gas-prices-20111108>