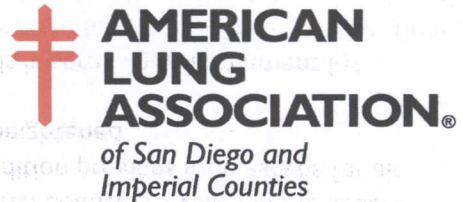


Clean Air
Initiative



Iniciativa de
Aire Limpio



January 7, 2008

California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: January 24, 2008 Board Hearing- Bond 1B Funding

Dear Board Members:

It is encouraged that you support the proposed distribution of Bond 1B funds to air districts with great need. Imperial County's community would benefit greatly from funding for projects that would reduce emissions and health risks which would focus on reducing diesel emissions from trucks.

The region's geography leads itself to be an area of high concentrations of particulate matter. Imperial County is located on the south eastern corner of California and is adjacent to the Mexican Border. Due to the Mexicali port of entry, there is much semi-trailer truck traffic. Imperial County is a valley in the desert surrounded by mountains. This bowl-like condition provides little escape for air pollution to disperse, instead conditions are heightened.

According to EPA standards, Imperial County is in serious non-attainment for particulate matter and in moderate non-attainment for ozone. These classifications indicate that the community is in great health risk. This is apparent because rates of asthma for both adults and young children in Imperial County are amongst the highest in California. Information collected through the 2005 California Health Interview Survey indicates that 21% of children in Imperial County are diagnosed with asthma; a continual increase from 2001 (15%) and 2003 (19%). Whereas, the statewide average for children diagnosed with asthma was 16% for 2005. It is reported by the California Breathing Program and Office of Statewide Planning and Development that adult hospitalization ratio for the County in 2005 was 13.6 asthma related hospitalizations for every 10,000 adults, and averaged 10.8 hospitalization for every 10,000 adults during 2001-2005; whereas, the state average during the same period was 4.5 hospitalizations for every 10,000 adults. Moreover, children hospitalized for asthma within Imperial County in 2005 was 39.1 for every 10,000 children. In comparison, children in Imperial County are 6.4 times likelier to be hospitalized for asthma than other children in the state.

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2750 Fourth Avenue
P.O. Box 3879
San Diego, CA 92163-1879
Phone: 619-297-3901
Fax: 619-297-8402

With your support, together with the air district we will be able to promote and protect public health.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Monique G. Lopez". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Monique G. Lopez, M.A.
Clean Air Initiative Coordinator

CC: Imperial County Air Pollution Control District