

air pollution control district

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY

December 5, 2019

Clerk of the Board
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Re: Proposed 2019 Amendments to Area Designations for State Ambient Air Quality Standards

Dear Chair Nichols and Members of the Board,

Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (District) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the 2019 amendments to the area designations for the state ambient air quality standards. We are thrilled to be in a position where California Air Resources Board (CARB) can propose to designate Santa Barbara County as attainment with the state ozone standards. When the District was created almost 50 years ago, the District faced many air quality challenges and violations of the state ozone standard. With every passing year, we have worked diligently to protect the people and the environment of Santa Barbara County from the effects of air pollution, and as a result our air is much cleaner today.

We have rigorously followed the triennial air quality plan and update schedule, as required by California Health and Safety Code, to achieve and maintain the ozone standards by the earliest practicable date. Air quality issues cannot be solved overnight. They require planning with key stakeholders in our community. This milestone is the result of a partnership involving the people of Santa Barbara County who have consistently supported clean air, the local businesses that have complied with numerous rules to reduce air pollution, our Board of Directors that has consistently shown leadership, our Community Advisory Council, our Hearing Board, state and federal agencies, and our dedicated staff.

As we continue to serve our community, significant challenges remain. While we are proud that our county has attained the state ozone standards, there are many factors that threaten to increase NO_x and VOC emissions in the future, including the growth in the ocean-going vessel sector. To that end, we encourage CARB's support to secure long-term funding for the continuation of the successful Vessel Speed Reduction Program, which provides reductions in ozone precursor and greenhouse gas emissions. We must also address the impacts of particulate matter emissions and various toxic air contaminants, such as those in diesel exhaust. All these pollutants can cause or exacerbate health issues, especially among children, seniors, and those with medical conditions. We remain committed to our mission of protecting Santa Barbara County from the harmful effects of air pollution.

District staff also wishes to thank your Board for your unwavering support for our mission of clean air.

Sincerely,



Aeron Arlin Genet
Air Pollution Control Officer

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