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Assembly California Legislature



ELOISE GÓMEZ REYES
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FORTY-SEVENTH DISTRICT

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September 21st, 2018

Chair Mary Nichols and Members of the Board
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 617 Community Air Protection Program: Community Recommendations

Dear Chair Nicols and Members of the Board:

I write to you today to support and urge your approval of the nomination of San Bernardino/Muscoy for selection as a “Year 1” Community under Assembly Bill 617 (Chapter 136, Statutes of 2017,) and its Community Air Protection Program.

As you know AB 617 requires the board to prepare a monitoring plan for the assessment of criteria air pollutants and toxic air contaminants as well as the needs and benefits of additional monitoring. In addition, it requires the implementation of a statewide strategy to reduce emissions in communities affected by a high cumulative exposure burden.

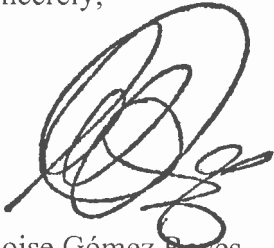
The communities of San Bernardino and Muscoy, located in my district, are in need of both increased monitoring as well as emissions reduction plans, and I appreciate and support the Board staff’s recommendation which reflects this need. Our community ranks in the 99.7th percentile under CalEnviroScreen 3.0 and residents are burdened by multiple sources of pollution due to their proximity to railyards, warehouses and the associated diesel truck traffic. This has the effect of our area recording some of the highest levels of ozone and particulate matter pollution measured in the country.

The community needs action now and if chosen as a “Year 1” community we urge the board to seek to involve the community in every aspect of implementation and compel Air Districts to do the same. This includes not only working in coordination to identify areas where further monitoring is needed, but also ensuring emissions reduction plans are targeted and complement existing actions being taken. For example in May, South Coast Air Quality Management District directed staff to continue developing proposed voluntary and regulatory measures to reduce emissions from railyards and warehouses. Actions taken through AB 617 should complement the emission reduction being sought through these programs, not delay them. Ensuring that all measures work in coordination to address the public health crisis in my community is of the utmost importance.



I am confident that we can make a difference in the lives of my constituents I once again urge the Board to approve staff recommendations to include San Bernardino/Muscoy in "Year 1" implementation. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this request please do not hesitate to contact my office at (916) 319-2047.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Eloise Gómez Reyes', written in a cursive style.

Eloise Gómez Reyes
Assemblymember, 47th District

EGR:mh