



02/23/201

1001 I Street,
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE:South Los Angeles Community Support Letter for and Official AB617 Community Emissions Reduction Plan

Dear California Air Resources Board,

We are writing on behalf of Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education, Esperanza Community Housing Corporation, and Community Health Councils, to thank the California Air Resources Board for considering our community for the AB617 program and urge them to officially select our South Central Los Angeles community for the next round of the AB 617 community selection. The South Central Los Angeles community comprises both the South Los Angeles and South East Los Angeles Community Plans, including the community areas of Florence, Watts, Broadway-Mancehster, Vermont & Slauson, Exposition Square, Leimert Park, Crenshaw, Jefferson Park, West Adams, Baldwin Hills, and Hyde Park. Our organizations stand in strong support of an AB617 community selection for South Central Los Angeles to implement a Community Emissions Reduction Plan.

South-Central Los Angeles communities are overexposed to a variety of air pollutants emitted by a range of air pollution sources and health disparities are further compounded by social stressors and incompatible land uses. Clusters of incompatible land uses are often disproportionately concentrated in disadvantaged and minority communities, wreaking havoc on the health of residents nearby. At the same time, social stressors, such as under- or unemployment, unsafe working conditions, racism, and social exclusion, make residents less able to cope with their health problems and more susceptible to disease, morbidity, and premature mortality.

In 2010, the South Central LA area had one of the highest asthma emergency visits and hospitalization rates in the county. South Central LA census tracts consistently and overwhelmingly score in the top 5-10% most vulnerable communities in both environmental and socio-economic factors, according to the California Environmental Screening Tool¹. According

¹ *Between the 110 and the 405: Environmental Injustice in South Los Angeles*, SCOPE-LA, Nov 27 2018



to the Health Atlas, coronary heart disease and respiratory illness are leading causes of death throughout the South Central Los Angeles neighborhoods. South Central Los Angeles Residents experience higher rates of asthma, heart disease, low birth weight, and cancer as compared to their wealthier neighbors in West and North Los Angeles. These narratives and substantial data sets demonstrate that South Central Los Angeles communities living next to incompatible land uses continue to breathe toxic air, and while air monitoring is essential, real action to reduce emissions is needed direly.

It is clear that solutions are needed direly and must be centered in impacted and front-line communities and rooted in prioritizing investment in community health and environmental justice if we expect to see real and tangible results on the ground.

We thank the California Air Resources Board for considering South Los Angeles for an AB617 Community Emissions Reduction Plan. We ask you to officially select our South LA community, listen to the community's needs, and support the community to start implementing long overdue solutions to clean up the air, improve public health, and move towards a just transition centered in clean production and the community's health.

Sincerely,

Martha Dina Arguello,
Executive Director, Physicians for Social Responsibility

Gloria Medina,
Interim Executive Director, Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education

Nancy Ibrahim,
Executive Director, Esperanza Community Housing Corporation

Veronica Flores,
Executive Director, Community Health Councils