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March 14, 2016

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

REGARDING: Letter supporting the staff recommendation of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona as the location of the Air Resources Board's new Southern California Laboratory

We the undersigned 259 engineers, scientists, technicians, and support staff of the Air Resources Board, wish to commend our colleagues for their comprehensive evaluation of potential sites for the Southern California Laboratory Consolidation Project and voice our support for the recommended Pomona site. Our support is based on the understanding that ARB must: select a new location that is closely aligned with our forward thinking policy initiatives, provide a strong environment for innovation and technical excellence, and maintain the Haagen-Smit Laboratory's most important asset, its highly skilled and dedicated staff.

We believe the recommended Pomona site:

- Best aligns with ARB's goals of sustainable transportation, sustainable communities, and the most efficient use of limited resources, while providing staff the best transit opportunities, both now and in the foreseeable future.
- Provides the most reasonable and fair access to all of Southern California's communities, and ensures that our staff continues to be drawn from, and represents, the economic and ethnic diversity of the public we serve.
- Recognizes the significant role of Cal Poly Pomona in the education of current ARB engineers, scientists, and leaders. From its "learn by doing" approach to scientific education and its noted academic excellence in areas ranging from engineering and life sciences, to architecture and agriculture, this institution is ideally positioned to develop the individuals and ideas that will help ARB meet the challenges of tomorrow.

We understand that the Board faces a difficult decision. The Haagen-Smit laboratory has a legacy of accomplishments in a field that its staff was instrumental in creating. This modernization project is crucial to providing ARB staff with the new tools needed to continue its groundbreaking work and to prepare for unforeseen challenges. The Board must select a location that provides the flexibility, the environment, and the conditions to meet new needs, while at the same time retaining what has allowed it to successfully meet its current responsibilities.

Both proposed locations offer closely matched elements and opportunities. However, there is a single difference that must be acknowledged, a commute distance from the current worksite that is significant enough to accelerate the turnover of staff and impact the skill and knowledge base that is vital to the Board's efforts. While there are actions that may be proposed to mitigate these concerns, we feel that the best option is to select a location that will result in the continuity of current capabilities, while still providing an environment for innovation and technical excellence.

Our comments in support of this proposal have been carefully deliberated and represent the very best of the ARB approach; a thorough understanding of facts, careful consideration of all available options, and the building of a consensus for a successful solution. It is our hope that this collective response, and our stated commitment to the success of this project, will help the Board confirm the recommended Pomona location and secure the unique benefits that the Haagen-Smit lab affords the people of California.

We wish to thank our colleagues of the Site Evaluation Team and Board members Barbara Riordan and Hector De La Torre for their work and dedication to this project, and for the opportunity to speak to the Board today.

Sincerely,

The Undersigned Staff of the Air Resources Board

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