



Office of the Mayor

City of Arts & Innovation

March 14, 2016

Mary D. Nichols, Chairwoman
California Environmental Protection Agency
Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA CONSOLIDATION PROJECT

Dear Chairwoman Nichols:

On behalf of the City of Riverside, I write to express my concern that Air Resources Board (ARB) staff is recommending the current El Monte facility be relocated to California State Polytechnic University, Pomona (Cal Poly) rather than to the University of California, Riverside (UCR).

Riverside offers the ARB an unrivaled opportunity for studying air quality – a critical quality of life issue as you know not just in Inland Southern California but also across the State. Locating the ARB facility at UCR will allow it to build upon the synergies between ARB's scientific and technical mission, and the academic and scientific resources at UCR, which include the Bourns School of Engineering, the Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT), the School of Medicine and the School of Public Policy. This would allow the ARB a holistic expansion of its goals of promoting public health, reducing harmful air pollutants, and creating innovative policies based on the best available scientific information, all while strengthening the state's economy. The importance of this move to ARB's mission in the near and long term cannot be overestimated.

In reviewing the findings outlined in the staff report, it appears that an undue emphasis was placed on the proximity of the current El Monte facility to Cal Poly. While it is always important to consider the impact relocation would have on your staff, a decision of this importance should not be made without a thorough and accurate evaluation of the ARB's needs. I believe that when all factors are considered equally – site cost analysis, stakeholder proximity, opportunities for collaboration, future growth and employment base – Riverside and UCR rise to the top.

I urge you to take a critical look at the staff report and its underlying considerations. I believe the ARB's interests are better suited in Riverside and urge you to select UCR as the site for the new facility.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (951) 826-5551.

Sincerely,

William R. Bailey, III
Mayor