

**CAPITOL OFFICE**  
Room 3149  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
(916) 319-2055  
FAX (916) 319-2155

**DISTRICT OFFICE**  
3 Pointe Drive  
Suite 313  
Brea, CA 92821  
(714) 529-5502  
FAX (714) 529-5548

Assembly  
California Legislature  
**LING LING CHANG**  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, 55<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT  
MINORITY WHIP



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Friday, March 11, 2016

Mary D. Nichols, Chair  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: Southern California Consolidation Project's Site Location

Dear Chair Nichols:

I have been following the status of ARB's Southern California Consolidation Project closely as the results will impact not only my District, but Los Angeles County as well. I was pleased to read the *ARB Staff Report Analysis of Sites for the Southern California Relocation Project* document released February 11, 2016 recommended Cal Poly Pomona as the proposed location for ARB and I am writing to strongly urge the California Air Resources Board to adopt the staff's site recommendation for Pomona for multiple reasons.

First, LA County cannot afford the loss of approximately 400 jobs to Riverside County and to do so is unacceptable. Those skilled jobs, and the accompanying economic development impacts affect housing, retail, spousal jobs, etc., and need to remain in LA County. Figure 10 in your *Staff Report* clearly shows most of the El Monte ARB employees currently reside around LA and these employees are already engrained in LA County. Moving to Riverside would have a wider effect on the County beyond these 400 jobs.

Second, the State needs to be good stewards of its resources, and allowing ARB to relocate to Riverside would prove costly. As stated in the *Staff Report*, the recently revised Professional Engineers in California Government (PECG) Bargaining Unit 9 MOU with California requires ARB to pay relocation expenses to qualified employees, which effects "almost 80% of the [ARB] staff," at an estimated cost of "\$1.0 million to about \$7.3 million" to the State. Next, the *Staff Report* specifies that a move to Riverside would "likely involve relocation, resignation, or retirement of ARB employees," given the differences in driving commutes and long public transit commutes. Keeping ARB in LA County "would likely retain more of ARB's existing and highly trained workforce necessary to support ARB's ability to carry out its responsibilities" and "would be much less disruptive to ARB's operations because there would [be] less disruption to ARB employees." Relocating to Riverside would cause undue financial burdens and longer term concerns for ARB in maintaining their quality staff and relatedly the outstanding services ARB provides. The work that ARB does is important to the State, and we rely on the quality results that come

out of your facilities; the loss of employees that would undoubtedly occur if ARB relocated to Riverside would be a detriment.

Lastly, organizations are only as good as the employees that work for them and I commend the ARB in considering your employees' views in the decision. As evidenced in the *Staff Report*, the ARB employees have made their preferences very clear, with "approximately 85% of the respondents prefer[ing] the Pomona site." They cited commute distance and time, the impact a move to Riverside would make on their personal lives and families, and the impact to their work. For the latter, the ability to complete field/outreach tasks within a day versus overnight, proximity to ports, railroads, refineries, etc. was a concern, in addition to "siting in Pomona would likely allow ARB to select from a larger candidate pool because of its proximity to the Los Angeles area."

I strongly encourage ARB to adopt the *Staff Report* recommendation; it makes economic and operational sense from multiple angles and it is consistent with the will of your employees. I look forward to hearing the results of the March 17<sup>th</sup> Board meeting and sincerely hope that ARB will remain in LA County. If you need additional information, please contact my office at 714-529-5502.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ling Ling Chang". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

LING LING CHANG  
Assemblywoman, 55<sup>th</sup> District  
California State Legislature