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March 14, 2016

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

Dear Chair Nichols:

As President of the University of California, I write in support of locating the Air Resources Board's planned Southern California emissions testing and research facility at the site proposed near the UC Riverside campus. I understand that as part of the deliberative process of selecting a location, the Board staff have formally recommended choosing the site in Pomona. I respectfully urge the Board to choose the Riverside location when the matter is considered by the full Board.

The University of California is steadfastly committed to combatting climate change and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Last year, we launched the UC Carbon Neutrality Initiative, an unprecedented effort by a major research university to achieve carbon neutrality by 2025. This systemwide program holds the potential of even greater synergies between UC and CARB and would only be strengthened by having CARB's facility close to one of our campuses. At the United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris last November, we announced that UC had become the first institutional investor in the Breakthrough Energy Coalition, a group of investors led by Bill Gates committed to investing in energy and climate technology. Our commitment to this coalition includes \$1 billion of investment capital for supporting clean energy innovation over the next five years, as well as an additional \$250 million to fund innovative ideas emerging from the UC ecosystem.

The University of California has played a crucial role in improving the state's air quality going back to the 1940s when UC researchers helped discover the origin of Southern California's smog. And when the California Air Resources Board (CARB) began its work in the late 1960s, UC quickly became one of CARB's most active collaborators. This close collaboration has served as a hallmark of CARB's working during the last four decades. Based on an informal review by UC staff, out of the over 1,100 research grants awarded by CARB since its founding, half have been

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awarded to UC campuses, which is almost four times as many grants that have been awarded to all other universities combined over that time. Indeed, due in large part to the partnership of CARB and UC, California has led the nation and the world in combating greenhouse gas emissions.

Locating the research facility near the UC Riverside campus stands as a unique opportunity to expand the seminal partnership between CARB and UC. With UC Riverside's expertise in air quality-related research--everything from chemistry and environmental sciences to medicine and policy--along with research centers such as the Center for Environmental Research & Technology and the BREATHE Center, relocating at UC Riverside represents an unparalleled opportunity to magnify CARB's work. Likewise, the Atmospheric Processes Laboratory at UC Riverside is the most advanced facility in the world for studying chemical processes using smog chambers. In addition, a stronger bond between CARB and UC strengthens the pipeline of talented UC graduates looking to work at CARB. Notably, five of CARB's six executive officers are UC alumni.

Based on the staff report, it appears that the primary driver of the staff recommendation concerns proximity to the current location and how it would affect CARB employees and their families. While this is understandable, I urge the Board to balance the more immediate concerns with the long-term goals of this new facility and what can be accomplished by being located near UC Riverside. For their part, the South Coast Air Quality Management District strongly agrees that the CARB facility should be in Riverside and has created a \$1 million endowment for training future leaders in air quality should the Riverside site be chosen.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me to discuss this further or if I can provide additional information.

Yours very truly,


Janet Napolitano
President

cc: The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
The Honorable Kevin de Leon
The Honorable Anthony Rendon
The Honorable Richard Roth
The Honorable Jose Medina
Chancellor Kim Wilcox