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April 14, 2021

Dr. David Edwards, Branch Chief  
Air Quality Planning and Science Division  
California Air Resources Board  
1001 I Street.  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Formal Comments on Proposed Amendments to the Regulation for the  
Reporting of Criteria Air Pollutants and Toxic Air Contaminants**

Dear Dr. Edwards:

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (Sac Metro Air District, District) is providing formal comments on the *Modified Regulatory Language to the Regulation for the Reporting of Criteria Air Pollutants and Toxic Air Contaminants* (CTR Regulation). While we fully support the overarching goals of the CTR regulation and want to provide timely access for our communities to important air pollution emissions information, we continue to have concerns about the lack of funding and some of the requirements in the recently released 15-day changes on the regulation.

**Lack of Funding for Mandated Regulation**

First and foremost, the state has not identified a viable and sustained source of funding for implementation of the CTR regulation at the local level. Without proper financial support for this mandate, it will be difficult for air districts to implement the regulation to a level where the intended goals of transparency and access to reliable and fully vetted air quality information are ultimately realized. Not having robust compliance assistance, data review and adequate technological solutions may lead to a more haphazard phase-in on the front end and increased confusion and misinterpretation of the emissions data for all stakeholders on the back end. While some adjustments to the regulation help mitigate workload obligations, the core issue remains since our agency's emission reporting workload will significantly increase regardless. While it may be expected that these costs will be passed on locally, given the unprecedented impact on businesses this past year our Board will be reticent to pass on additional fees to the business community in the near-term. CARB should therefore be at the forefront of pursuing funding solutions to support their air quality partners in this important effort.

### **Consistent Reporting Thresholds**

The District highly recommends standardized reporting thresholds. Whether they are ultimately set at the 4-ton or 10-ton level, these thresholds should be consistent across air districts. This regulation is particularly onerous for businesses to interpret and implement and having disparate thresholds for businesses that operate across the State or between County lines can increase confusion for reporting entities.

### **Consistent Phase-In Schedule**

The added language (§93403(b)(1)) requiring facilities to report emissions for all processes according to the earliest phase-in timing for any one process adds an additional reporting burden for facilities instead of allowing a reasonable ramp-up of reporting requirements. It is further complicated by allowing some sectors, i.e., landfill/waste sectors, out of the requirement while other sectors or facilities may have similar concerns and difficulty in meeting the requirements all at once. We again encourage consistency within the regulation and across sectors, where possible, to help reduce reporting complications.

### **Online Emission Reporting Tool**

With the addition of the CTR regulation, there are now multiple emission inventory and reporting regulations that air districts, regulated entities and the public must decipher and interpret. CARB should continue to look for ways to streamline emission inventory efforts between the Air Toxics “Hot Spots” Information and Assessment Act of 1987, GHG emissions reporting, criteria pollutant emission data submitted through CEIDARS, and the CTR regulation. CARB has committed to developing an online reporting tool that will be used for all emission reporting requirements and the District is very supportive of that effort. Having a CARB-developed online reporting tool will avoid duplicative efforts by local air districts and foster consistent reporting requirements for regulated entities, especially businesses that operate in multiple air districts. The District strongly encourages CARB to continue working with local districts to develop the online reporting tool.

### **Website & Future Emission Data Access**

The District highly recommends that CARB begin planning early for how online emission data can be made relevant and understandable for the public, e.g., requiring viewing of brief informational training videos prior to allowing public access. This step and others can help reduce confusion and misinterpretation and help explain the limitations and caveats inherent in the collected emission data.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide input on the modified regulatory language and appreciate your diligent review prior to finalizing the regulation. If you would like any clarification about our remarks, please contact me directly at (916) 874-6354 or [aroberts@airquality.org](mailto:aroberts@airquality.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Amy L. Roberts". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Amy" and last name "Roberts" clearly legible.

Amy Roberts  
Division Manager  
Stationary Source Division

cc: Alberto Ayala, Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer  
Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District

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