



LOS ANGELES AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

March 14, 2016

Mary D. Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
Chairman's Office
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Proposed Relocation of the Southern California ARB Facility - SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Nichols:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, representing over 1,650 member organizations, I am writing to express our support for the site recommendation, relocating the ARB. As the voice of business, the Chamber promotes collaboration and business development in the region in order to build greater economic prosperity and quality of life for all Los Angeles residents. Given our mission, I was pleased to read the California Air Resources Board's (ARB) recent report "Analysis of Sites for the Southern California Relocation Project," which recommends relocation of the ARB's El Monte facilities to the campus of California State Polytechnic University, Pomona.

The Chamber knows that retaining talented staff is key to organizational success, and we commend the ARB for commissioning this report to assess how relocation would impact current employees. As the staff report found, employees strongly favor the Cal Poly Pomona site, with "approximately 85% of the respondents prefer[ing] the Pomona site" over alternative options. The staff report specifies that moving the facility to Riverside County would "likely involve relocation, resignation, or retirement of ARB employees," given the sharp differences in driving and public transit commutes. By comparison, maintaining the facility in Los Angeles County would "likely retain more of ARB's existing and highly trained workforce [who are] necessary to support ARB's ability to carry out its responsibilities" and "would be much less disruptive to ARB's operations." Further, the staff report also concluded that moving the facility to Pomona would "allow ARB to select from a larger candidate pool because of its proximity to the Los Angeles area." We understand the importance of the work that ARB does and believe that retaining the facility in Los Angeles County will be optimal for the ARB by helping to attract and retain talented staff.

The Los Angeles region also stands to benefit from maintaining the southern California facility in Los Angeles County, as the ARB functions as a key employer in our local economy. We cannot afford to lose approximately 400 jobs to our neighbors in Riverside County. Those high-skilled, high-paying jobs—and the economic development components that accompany these jobs, such as employee housing, retail, spousal jobs, etc.—should remain in Los Angeles.

Furthermore, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce is committed to promoting education and workforce development opportunities that will prepare our young people for 21st century jobs. We are pleased to see that Cal Poly Pomona and the CSU System are eager to collaborate with ARB, and have proposed to develop new state-of-the-art facilities on their campus property. This campus co-location will not only retain hundreds of jobs in our County, but will offer additional educational benefits and training opportunities for Cal Poly students and faculty, as well as for our local community. As the only polytechnic university in southern California, Cal Poly Pomona is uniquely positioned to prepare students for critically-needed scientific and professional careers through its

superior teaching, scholarly activity, and high-quality academic programs and experiential learning opportunities. In addition, Cal Poly Pomona's status as a federally defined Hispanic-Serving Institute (HSI) enables it to meet our current and projected workforce needs with diverse and highly-skilled job candidates. The Chamber greatly supports how co-location of the ARB facility on the Cal Poly Pomona campus will create collaborative educational and training opportunities that will have a positive impact on our entire community.

For these reasons, the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce strongly encourages ARB to adopt the staff report's recommendation to relocate the El Monte facility to the Cal Poly Pomona campus. This move makes economic and operational sense from multiple angles, is consistent with the will of your employees, and creates additional educational and training opportunities for our future workforce. I look forward to hearing the results of the March 17th Board meeting and sincerely hope I will soon have the opportunity to announce to business community that ARB will be remaining in Los Angeles County. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Toebben".

Gary Toebben
President & CEO