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BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF RIVERSIDE



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March 14, 2016

The Honorable Mary Nichols
California Air Resources Board
P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

RE: Southern California Consolidation Project

Dear Chairman Nichols:

I am writing on behalf of Riverside County in asking that your Board reconsider the staff recommendation and consolidate your Southern California operations in the City of Riverside. I have had the pleasure of representing the Riverside region for more than a quarter of a century, first as a member of the Riverside City Council and now as a member of the Board of Supervisors. Over the years, I have taken significant pride in the partnership between the Air Resources Board (ARB) and our community. Relocating to Riverside is the next logical step in that relationship.

As noted in the staff report, our submittal was the result of an impressive and coordinated coalition of varying interests, including the City and County of Riverside, Riverside Public Utilities, the University of California – Riverside (UCR), and the Greater Riverside Chambers of Commerce. This group has worked closely with your staff and will be making a presentation at your Board meeting scheduled for Thursday. Rather than provide a lengthy response at this time, I would simply like to offer the following list of highlights:

- **Cost and Schedule Control.** The proposed site is on land already owned by UCR, and is designated in the campus master plan for future research-related development. The site is flat and utilities are located at various nearby facilities, thus helping to limit development costs and accelerate schedule.
- **Synergies.** Riverside provides unique opportunities for interaction and cooperation between the ARB and UCR through the latter's College of Engineering-Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT),

which has contributed important research and technology development in the air quality and alternative energy fields.

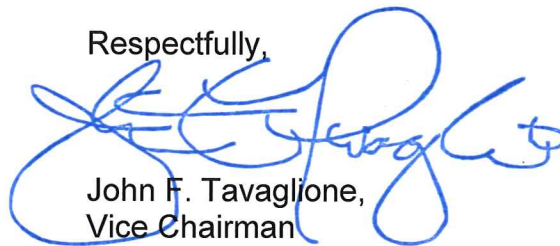
- **UCR Medical School.** The new medical school will provide important opportunities with respect to medical research regarding greenhouse gases and air pollution.
- **History.** As you know, the City of Riverside filed the first Clean Air Act lawsuit in 1973, which led to the first significant Air Quality Management Plan in the South Coast Air Basin. Elected and appointed leaders from Riverside were also at the forefront in the drive to first establish the South Coast Air Quality Management District, and later to strengthen its regulatory reach.
- **Inland/Coastal Divide.** The Riverside site is a great opportunity to honor Governor Brown's pledge to begin bridging the gap between the State's inland and coastal regions. Inland communities like those in the Central Valley and Inland Empire have long suffered from a lack of investment on the part of State government, leading to the creation of disadvantaged communities, wage and opportunity disparities, and other socioeconomic challenges.
- **LEED Experience.** The State's LEED Platinum requirement should be achievable at the UCR site. Many of the amenities and features necessary to maximize LEED points are available.
- **UCR Partnerships.** The proposed site is on UCR land and within ½ mile of UCR's main campus, making all manner of formal and informal partnership opportunities (academic, research, cultural, recreational) available to the ARB and its employees.
- **Adjacencies.** There are numerous amenities immediately adjacent to the proposed site, including two hotels (Courtyard by Marriott and Hampton Inn and Suites), a number of restaurants, several shops and stores, banks and credit unions, and other services... and of course at least two Starbucks.
- **Housing.** There are numerous housing choices available throughout Riverside, ranging from newly built apartments and condominiums to historic houses and recently built custom and tract homes. Housing prices are among the most affordable remaining in Southern California.

- **Cost Savings/Avoidance.** Riverside presents savings opportunities by offering the ability to reduce the scope of the ARB project. By making use of facilities already available on the UCR main campus and at CE-CERT, the facility and equipment requirements can be reduced significantly, potentially producing savings in the tens of millions of dollars.
- **Employment Opportunities.** As one of the fastest growing economies in the state, there are an increasing number of employment opportunities for the family members of ARB employees, ranging from entry level to executive positions. UCR is already at 22,000 students and expected to continue to grow rapidly, making campus employment opportunities increasingly available; in addition, the other four colleges and universities in the City of Riverside are also growing in both enrollment and campus size. Nearby communities are also seeing continuous increases in employment opportunities.
- **Operational Cost Reductions**—because the City of Riverside has its own municipal utility, electricity and water rates are much lower than rates for investor owned utilities; for instance, the City estimates that ARB would save between \$500,000 and \$800,000 in power costs per year in the first three years of operation alone.

Please take a critical look at the staff report and consider all aspects of the site relocation. I have no doubt that after careful analysis, you will see the benefits Riverside offers over City of Pomona, and make the most cost-effective choice of selecting Riverside as your future home.

Thank you in advance for your consideration. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me.

Respectfully,



John F. Tavaglione,
Vice Chairman

Riverside County Board of Supervisors