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STANDING COMMITTEE  
SENATE RULES  
CHAIR

## SENATOR KEVIN DE LEÓN

### PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

February 23, 2016

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

#### **RE: Location of Southern California Laboratory**

Dear Chair Nichols:

It has come to my attention that in a recently published California Air Resources Board (CARB) staff report, there is a recommendation for the Board's new Southern California Laboratory to be located in Pomona instead of Riverside. I write to urge the Board to set aside this staff recommendation and to designate the Riverside location when this item is heard at your next meeting.

It seems that the staff's primary rationale for choosing the Pomona location over Riverside is the late introduction of a new parameter referred to in the report as "proximity," meaning the relative closeness of the Pomona site to stakeholders and others who interact with the Lab as compared to Riverside.

All other factors appear to be roughly equal between the two locations. Therefore, the staff's application of a proximity test merely reinforces the stratification between coastal and inland communities, and further exacerbating this divide has no place in a state government's procurement process.

This new "proximity" rationale also seems unwarranted given our societal need to expand zero carbon mobility and creative alternatives to single passenger vehicles and trips. The Riverside location presents the perfect opportunity to apply low carbon mobility, including electric van pools, expanded video conferencing and telecommuting, and encouraging employees and stakeholders to take advantage of the high quality, lower cost housing available in the Inland Empire.

The staff report's reliance on proximity as the determinant factor is more than offset by other factors that weigh strongly in favor of the Riverside location, several of which were not included or considered in the staff/Department of General Services analysis:

1. The Riverside location provides the unique opportunity for synergies between CARB's scientific and technical mission and the academic and scientific resources of the University of California at Riverside (UCR). The university's engineering school is one of the top ten in the nation, and the Center for Environmental and Engineering Research and Technology (CE-CERT) has contributed important research and technology development in the air quality and clean energy fields.
2. The newly established UCR Medical School provides an important link to research on health effects and the relationship of air and GHG pollution to diseases such as pulmonary heart disease and asthma. UCR also has outstanding life and physical science departments and a new school of public policy, all of which fit with the mission, needs and challenges facing state clean air and climate programs in the coming years.
3. The Riverside site links well with the historic contributions of both UC Riverside, and Riverside's civic community, to California's success in discovering and understanding the causes, impacts and atmospheric reactions that create air pollution. The seminal work of scientists like Dr. James Pitts, Arthur Winer, Alan Lloyd, Barbara Finlayson-Pitts, Bill Carter and others at the UCR Statewide Air Pollution Research Center is well known and highly respected in air quality circles. The early work of UCR biologists gave the world its first understanding of the damage that photochemical oxidants inflicted on forests and agricultural crops, and helped create public support for regulatory action on reducing air pollution.
4. It was the City of Riverside that in 1973 filed the first lawsuit under the federal Clean Air Act, to force EPA to prepare a Federal Implementation Plan because Southern California had failed to attain the federal ambient air quality standards. This lawsuit resulted in the first ever action by US EPA to impose an Implementation Plan on a non-attainment area, and led to the first serious air quality management plan for the South Coast Air Basin.
5. Local and state elected officials from Riverside were at the forefront of negotiations which led to the creation and later strengthening of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, including Norton Younglove, Assembly Member and later Congressman Jerry Lewis, Assembly Member Walter Ingalls, and Senator Robert Presley. Without their sustained leadership and vision, and the strong support of the Riverside community, it is unlikely Southern California would have made the progress it has on clean air over these past several decades. Most recently, Riverside Mayor Ron Loveridge, serving on both the South Coast AQMD and Air Resources Board, played a significant role in the build out of EV and alternative fuel infrastructure, and in the development of VMT-reducing integrated transportation and land use plans.

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Finally, the Board's decision on the location of the new Lab presents a generational opportunity to demonstrate the importance of significant infrastructure and technology investments in the Inland Empire and its disadvantaged communities.

The Riverside County legislative delegation, the University, and the business community are united in their support for ARB consolidating in Riverside. Here in the Senate, Senator Roth has been a leader in reviewing the ARB evaluation process thoroughly as it has proceeded over the past year.

I appreciate your consideration on this important matter. I hope you and your fellow board members will give these factors serious consideration and ultimately choose to locate the new lab in Riverside. If you have any questions, or would like to discuss this issue further, please do not hesitate to contact me directly.

Sincerely,



**KEVIN DE LEÓN**  
**President pro Tempore**  
**Twenty-Fourth Senate District**

KDL: lc

Cc: Nancy McFadden, Executive Secretary, Governor's Office  
Michael Cohen, Director, Department of Finance