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Assembly California Legislature



FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ
ASSEMBLYMEMBER, FIFTY-SECOND DISTRICT

COMMITTEES
ACCOUNTABILITY AND
ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW
BUDGET
HEALTH
INSURANCE
RULES

SUBCOMMITTEE
BUDGET SUBCOMMITTEE NO. 5 ON
PUBLIC SAFETY

SELECT COMMITTEE
CHAIR: SELECT COMMITTEE ON LOCAL
EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

JOINT COMMITTEE
CHAIR: JOINT COMMITTEE ON
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

3/12/2016

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

RE: Southern California Consolidation Project's Site Location

Dear Chair Nichols:

I have been closely following the status of ARB's Southern California Consolidation Project as the results will impact not only my District, but Los Angeles County as well. I was pleased to read the *ARB Staff Report Analysis of Sites for the Southern California Relocation Project* document released February 11, 2016; which recommended the Pomona site as the proposed location for ARB. I am writing to strongly urge the California Air Resources Board to adopt the staff's site recommendation for Pomona for multiple reasons.

First, Los Angeles County cannot afford the loss of approximately 400 jobs to Riverside County, and to do so is unacceptable. Those high-quality jobs and the accompanying economic development components around 400 jobs such as housing, retail, and tax revenue should remain in Los Angeles County. As you may know, most of the El Monte ARB employees are already settled in Los Angeles County and relocating to Riverside County would have a wider effect on the County beyond these 400 jobs.

Second, a move to Riverside County would likely involve relocation, resignation, and or retirement of ARB employees, given the differences in driving commutes and long public transit commutes. As a result, the State is liable to pay relocation expenses to qualified employees, which effects almost 80% of the current ARB staff. It is estimated that this will cost the State between \$1.0 million to about \$7.3 million. These are funds that should be used instead to invest in our children's education, put more police officers and firefighters on the streets, and restore our State's crumbling transportation infrastructure.

Lastly, unhappy employees can lead to reduced productivity, poor customer service and costly problems with employee retention. I commend the ARB in considering your employees' views in the decision. The ARB employees have made their preferences very clear, with approximately

The Honorable Freddie Rodriguez

March 12, 2016

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85% of the respondents preferring the Pomona site. The long distance commute and the impact a move to Riverside would have on their personal lives and families will make it difficult to motivate employees to come to work every day and contribute.

For these reasons, I strongly encourage ARB to adopt the *Staff Report* recommendation; it makes economic and operational sense from multiple angles and it is consistent with the will of your employees. I look forward to hearing the results of the March 17th Board meeting and sincerely hope that ARB will remain in Los Angeles County.

If you need additional information, please contact me at (909) 902-9606 to discuss this letter in further detail.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Freddie Rodriguez', written over a horizontal line.

FREDDIE RODRIGUEZ
Assemblymember, District 52

FR/rt

CC:

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