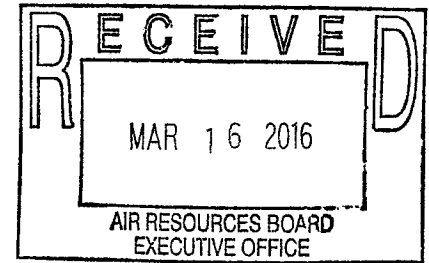


**V. JOHN WHITE ASSOCIATES**  


March 13, 2016

Mary Nichols, Chairman  
California Air Resources Board

Dear Chairman Nichols and Board Members:

I am writing as a longtime friend and supporter of the Air Resources Board and its clean air mission to express my deep disappointment with the recently published staff recommendation to consolidate ARB's El Monte lab and related facilities in Pomona, instead of Riverside. I strongly urge the Board to set aside the staff recommendation and instead adopt the Riverside site and recommend it to the Governor and Legislature.

The principal rationale for choosing Pomona over Riverside is "proximity" to the existing facilities, and the preference of ARB's existing staff, and a survey of recent visitors to ARB's El Monte lab. All other things appear to be more or less equal. While I can appreciate the staff's preferences being given careful consideration, the overwhelming reliance on this rationale, ignores other compelling reasons for choosing Riverside which were not included or considered in the staff/DGS analysis.

First, is the opportunity to take advantage of synergies between ARB's scientific and technical mission, and the academic and scientific resources of the University of California. UCR's engineering school is one of the 10 ten in the US, and 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. The newly established medical school could provide an important link to research on health effects and the relationship of air pollution to pulmonary heart disease and asthma. In addition, UCR has stellar life and physical science departments and a new school of public policy, all of which fit with the mission, needs and challenges facing ARB in the coming years.

Second, abandoning the opportunity at Riverside ignores, and devalues 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. ARB must not ignore or disregard the pioneering work of Dr. Jim Pitts, Arthur Winer, Alan Lloyd, Barbara Finlayson- Pitts, Bill Carter and others at the Statewide Air Pollution Research Center. Their extraordinary work and their independence, integrity, and courage in the face of well-funded attacks from polluting industries is one of the untold stories of California's fight for clean air. The early work of UCR biologists gave us the 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.

Few remember that it was Riverside Mayor Ben Lewis, responding to the sudden wave of heavy smog that had engulfed Riverside and the Inland Empire, who in 1973 filed the first lawsuit under the 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. A young lawyer from NRDC filed the lawsuit. Her name was Mary Nichols.

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, Jerry Lewis, Walter Ingalls, and Bob 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 we've made in the past 40 years. 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.

This decision is an important opportunity to demonstrate ARB's, and the Administration's, recognition of the importance of ensuring significant infrastructure and technology investments in Inland California 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, and ARB should carefully consider these and other important considerations in making its decision. In the end, I believe this matter will be decided in the negotiations between the Governor and the Legislature, and I think it would be a tragic mistake, especially at this point in our shared history, for ARB to turn its back on the community and institutions which have done so much to advance the cause of clean air and sustainability.

Lastly, while I appreciate your need to consider the wishes and desires of ARB staff who are concerned about longer commute times, given the need to expand zero carbon mobility and creative alternatives to single passenger vehicles, it would seem like this is the perfect opportunity to apply some low carbon mobility creativity, including electric van pools, expanded video conferencing and telecommuting, and encouraging employees to take advantage of the high quality, lower cost housing available in the Riverside area.

I realize this is a close call and a difficult decision, but would strongly urge you and your fellow board members to honor the legacy of Riverside, the University, and the civic and political leaders, and look to an exciting future, working closely with the University of California and the Riverside community.

Thank you for listening.

  
V. John White

Cc: Governor Jerry Brown  
Secretary Matt Rodriguez  
Senate Pro Tempore Kevin de Leon  
Senator Richard Roth  
Assembly Speaker Anthony Rendon  
Assembly Minority Leader Chad Mayes  
Assembly Member Jose Medina  
Assembly Member Eduardo Garcia.