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Statement from Lisa Y. Flores

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To: Ivanka Saunders <isaunders@leadershipcounsel.org>

Statement from Lisa Y. Flores

As a retired planner with over 20 years experience reading a wide variety of environmental documents and organizing public outreach, I found not only this process flawed but the final product before you negligent to the tenet and spirit of 617.

At the beginning of the process, the steering committee was told to think outside the box, try something new and that the local Air District was listening. That's when the deception begin, steering committee members have been subjugated to a caste system in their opportunities and their rights to review translate documents in a timely manner and within the legal review periods.

In September 2019, the air district board approved the draft, I was shocked, appalled and outraged the document were not available in Spanish to those members of the committee and the greater community that only reads Spanish. Only 4 committee members spoke (mostly businesses) in favor, while 7 committee members spoke against approval, because it did not represent or address what the community wanted. This from a committee of 40, where barely 50% attended monthly meetings since April.

When this was brought to the attention of Air District Board Chair Buddy Mendez, he could careless and was more concerned with eating nuts, drinking coffee and making his late afternoon meeting in Dinuba which was more important. His behavior is emblematic of the incompetence that the community has had to deal with from both the Air District Board and their staff.

Throughout the steering committee process the Air District used the tactic of wasting time to get us to this point of forcing us to accept "their wants" versus the "actual needs" of the community. A community that has had to endure systematic environmental racism for decades, and now it is your opportunity to correct this situation. Or shall the enabling continue?

On Tuesday night, I met the CARB Executive Director whom after insulting me to my face "for talking too much", alluded to the approval as being politically advantageous for the CARB program.

An approval of this flawed document would only be advantageous to meeting a legislative milestone and make CARB staff look good. But would fail to meet the community needs for a healthier environment.

This is similar to as why there is no Fresno portion of this meeting in Fresno, it was too "inconvenient for the CARB Board/staff" to schedule yet another meeting.

To the board members, it is my express opinion this document needs to be rejected and given back to the air district with recommendations that they SHALL include recommendations, objectives, milestones (with proposed funding allocations) from community members of the steering committee.

To do otherwise would fundamentally violate the principles of environmental justice under federal and state laws, as well as, the procedural civil rights of the majority of members of this community whose interest have not been protected in this process.

Thank you for your time.

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Sent from my iPhone