

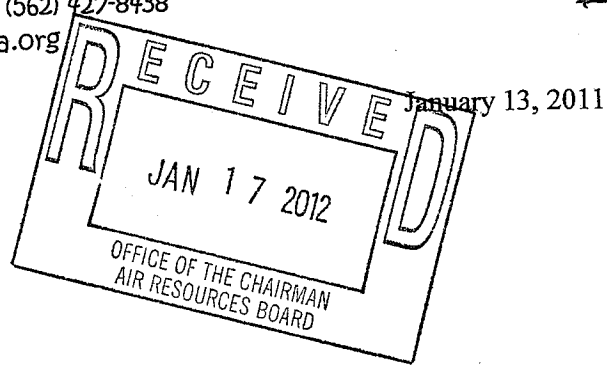


LONG BEACH ALLIANCE FOR CHILDREN WITH ASTHMA

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Mary Nichols
Chairman, California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
PO Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Mrs. Nichols,

We are writing to express our strong support of the California Clean Cars Campaign. Although ozone and particulate matter levels have dropped significantly in Southern California over the last decade, the Los Angeles region still has the highest levels of ozone nationwide, violating federal health standards an average of 137 days a year.

The mission of the Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma is to change the profile of childhood asthma in the most affected areas through improved health care delivery, outreach, education, support systems, healthy living environments and changes at all policy levels. Despite advances in improving air quality through change at the policy level, Long Beach and its surrounding communities will likely continue to experience the disproportionate impact of asthma and other health conditions resulting from poor air quality. The Clean Cars Campaign will help alleviate some of the health burdens placed on the children living in the affected communities. Currently, the levels of children with asthma in Long Beach are a staggering 21 percent. Strengthening California's groundbreaking clean car standards would reduce harmful tailpipe pollution from cars and light trucks, decreasing incidences of asthma attacks, heart and lung disease, respiratory emergency room visits, and cardio and respiratory hospitalizations. According to the American Lung Association, California could avoid at least \$7.2 billion annually in health and other societal costs if our entire fleet were converted to the next generation of cleaner, more efficient vehicles by 2025.

We are deeply concerned about the poor health outcomes caused by air pollution that is driven largely by transportation emissions in California. Along with triggering asthma attacks, exposure to vehicle pollution contributes to new asthma cases, impairs lung function and development and contributes to respiratory and cardiac illnesses and even premature deaths. We are especially concerned about low-income communities and other vulnerable populations including seniors, children, and infants and those already suffering from lung, heart and other chronic diseases.

We urge the California Air Resources Board to move forward this year to protect public health by enhancing California's Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas regulations to reduce emissions from all new motor vehicles and by strengthening the state's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program.

We believe that the strongest possible motor vehicle emission standards are critically important for the health of Los Angeles residents and, as other states and federal government adopt California vehicle standards, for the health of all Americans.

Sincerely,

Jessica Tovar, MSW
Project Manager
Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma

c: Janet Scully, Coordinator, Asthma Coalition of Los Angeles County