



February 27, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been an insurance broker to the construction industry for the past five years. However, insurance is not why I write to you today. Today I am writing to you because of what I believe to be serious errors in judgement on the resource board's part in developing the upcoming off-road rulings. As a long-time resident of Southern California, I can remember the days of being told to stay inside the house or classroom because of Stage 2 smog alerts. I understand we still have a ways to go to clean up our air. However, the method in which you are going about it is all wrong. Requiring the end-user (small business contractors) will do nothing but hurt the industry, hurt the economy and hurt the state as a whole. First, requiring these rules on contractors will force many to go out of business. Not only that, but many of the suppliers that work with contractors will also be adversely affected. Second, with the economy already hurting, placing this undue burden will only further drive us into a recession. Finally, it will affect us as a state as a whole because when the small and middle size contractors go out of business, there will be less competition on private and more importantly, public projects. Less competition means higher prices for the work. With taxpayer money paying for these projects, these regulations will end up becoming a tax on the citizens and any supposed savings in healthcare will in turn be lost due to higher project costs.

However, something does need to be done about our air quality and the environment. What we are asking for is a reasonable time schedule and for the emphasis to be placed more on the manufacturers of the engines and less on the contractors. Giving the manufacturer a strict timeline to create and install the technology and then giving the contractor a reasonable timeframe to upgrade their equipment to this new technology is what makes sense. It makes sense to the business owners, to the economy and to the citizens of this great state. I urge you to reconsider these regulations and protect us all.

Sincerely,

Steven Young, CIC, CRM
Vice President
Allen Lawrence & Associates, Inc.