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May 24-25, 2007

International Union of Operating Engineers

AFL-CIO



WM. C. WAGGONER
Business Manager
and
General Vice-President

Southern California & Southern Nevada

May 24, 2007

Ms. Catherine Witherspoon
Air Resources Board
Executive Officer
1001 "I" Street, Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Ms. Witherspoon,

The Air Resources Board proposal regarding new emission standards for off road diesel vehicles will have a devastating effect on the construction industry in California. The cost to the industry statewide would be in the billions of dollars. Even if the new generation diesel engines were available in the quantities needed, which they are not, the cost to the industry would be prohibitive.

Regulations like those proposed by the ARB would cause contractors to leave the state.

The voters of California passed a 24 billion transportation bond to help alleviate our crowded and overburdened freeway system. In the next ten years we have an opportunity to build transportation projects that will help relieve the congested freeway system. If we can proceed with these projects then the quality of the air will improve. If we do not then the air quality will continue to deteriorate.

On behalf of the 25,000 members of the IUOE Local 12 whose livelihood depends on building these projects and on behalf of every Californian who commutes to work every day., we ask that the staff reconsider the new proposed regulations and work more closely with the building industry as well as the diesel manufacturing industry to achieve a more workable plan.

Local 12 along with the contractors would urge extending the current deadline proposed by the ARB for another three to five years so that the air quality levels the board wants to achieve will be reached in a much more realistic manner.

Sincerely,

Wm. C. Waggoner, Business Manager
I.U.O.E., Local Union No. 12 and
General Vice-President

cc: All Southern California Contractor Associations