

September 17, 2009

Mary Nichols
Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Improvements made to idling locomotive management since 2005 MOU

Dear Chair Nichols:

My name is Richard Carrion. I reside at 1000 South 8th Street in Colton, California, south of the Union Pacific Railroad's West Colton Yard facility, on the line known as the Riverside Industrial Lead.

For the past several years, I have contacted Union Pacific on numerous occasions to make complaints regarding locomotives idling for extended periods of time. I have engaged your staff and the Railroad on other (operational) issues, and have attended all four of the community meetings held in my area.

Union Pacific has listened to my concerns, seriously considered the issues raised, and responded. They have moved the location for handling some trains to a less-populated area further south of my home; posted signs to remind train crews to not idle in the area; and have had managers remind train crews when the instructions are not followed.

Since the ARB and UPRR signed a Memorandum of Understanding in June 2005, I have noticed a very significant reduction in idling near my home. By utilizing the toll-free number to contact the UPRR Response Management Communications Center, as well as by contacting Mr. Harold Holmes of your staff, the number of calls I have made to the Railroad has dropped from an average of more than once per week in early 2005 to a current average of about once every other month. I understand that there are many different crews that work in this area and, while not perfect, the situation has vastly improved from the way things were in early 2005.

I have also been pleased with the use of the toll-free number, and to have received prompt, courteous, and professional written and verbal responses from UPRR Response Management personnel and environmental staff, as well as Mr. Holmes of your staff, even during non-business hours, and timely notification of local managers that work to resolve my issues.

I fully support the improvements that have been made as a result of the 2005 MOU, and I appreciate the ongoing efforts of ARB and the Railroad to reduce emissions throughout the State of California, and to improve and protect the health and quality of life of all Californians.

Sincerely,

Richard Carrion

cc: Members of the Board
Mr. James Goldstene