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Statement Submitted to the California Air Resources Board from
Romel Pascual, Associate Director for Environment
Office of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa, City of Los Angeles

September 27, 2007
Diamond Bar, CA

Madam Chair and members of the Board:

Good Morning. I am Romel Pascual, the Associate Director for the Environment for Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa.

We would like to commend all of the parties involved in working together over the past few months to come to a consensus on the measures needed to meet federal air quality standards in southern California.

We all know that the South Coast Basin experiences a disproportionate share of exposure to PM2.5 in excess of federal standards, and has the highest violations in the country of the federal ozone standard. This has a significant public health impact on all Angelenos, and a serious economic impact on the region as well.

Given the City's goals to reduce pollution from our own operations, and our leadership role in demonstrating alternative fuel fleets, we appreciate the work you have done to address some of the more difficult air pollution issues in our region.

The leadership demonstrated by ARB, SCAQMD, and SCAG in reaching agreement shows how truly important these issues are to our communities. Madam Chair, thank you for your leadership in reaching consensus.

The City of Los Angeles, too, will continue our push to modernize our fleets to reduce air pollution and improve the public health, and will expand those programs as quickly as we can. We appreciate the extra funding to be dedicated to facilitate and accelerate fleet turnover, particularly for Port-related heavy trucks and equipment.

We look forward to working with your staff and the staff of the South Coast District as these proposals are further developed, and we would be happy to provide any assistance that we can.

Thank you for your attention and for your commitment to clean air.

Thank you.