

June 22, 2007

Honorable CARB Members:

Thank you for conducting this hearing and allowing public input on this matter.

My name is Diane Trantman. I am a 14-year resident of the Santa Clarita Valley in north Los Angeles County and a 30-year resident in Southern California. I also serve as a Planning Commissioner for the City of Santa Clarita.

Though I am not formally authorized to speak on behalf of the entire commission, I can assure you that we all agree that the air quality problems in our valley are approaching crisis level and warrant your full and immediate attention.

The Santa Clarita Valley is a rapidly growing area. Multiple and ongoing construction projects — most in unincorporated areas, but some within city boundaries — contribute to high levels of pollution in the valley. Two adjacent landfills and several mining operations make the situation even worse.

Our City tries to reduce pollutants through various means. We place strong mitigation measures on projects to reduce particulate matter and VOC. We have created a state-of-the-art Transit Maintenance Facility built using "Green Building" techniques.

Still, we are asked to sign Statements of Overriding Consideration on project after project because, despite our best efforts, we cannot reach compliance for NOx and Ozone, and we border non-compliance on PM. These pollutants are generated by mobile sources largely outside our valley. Topography and weather conditions ensure that these pollutants become trapped in the valley.

Adding insult to injury, the Interstate 5 corridor runs directly through the valley. Population increases and expansion of port activity guarantee exponentially worsened pollution.

Dr. Sperling mentioned potential benefits from local trip reduction. Our City and others are working to increase public transportation and build housing near transit. But that's not enough.

I have friends and neighbors who have developed severe respiratory ailments. Some simply moved away because they couldn't take it anymore.

The costs to implement some of these AQMP strategies may be high, but I suggest the costs of taking lesser actions will be much higher.

Please don't wait for solutions to present themselves. Do what you must to obtain the level of authority needed to solve these problems. Please approve the 2007 SCAQMP now or within 60 days.

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