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Hope for Tomorrow

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June 12, 2007

The Honorable Bob Sawyer
Chairman
California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Proposed Ozone Plan

Dear Chairman Sawyer:

On behalf of the 350,000 families who attend Mass and receive the Sacraments in the Catholic Diocese of Stockton, we ask your help to improve the air quality in the Central Valley as soon as possible. The Diocese stretches from San Joaquin Valley to the Sierra Nevada Mountains. For the past three years, we have focused on improving people's health by working for cleaner air.

The Catholic Church understands that, to respect life, we must respect the envelope of life, the Earth, on which all life depends. That is why the Stockton Diocese is actively engaged on air pollution and the public health.

Specifically, we ask you to avoid adopting the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's draft 2007 Ozone Plan. Instead, we ask that you closely consider the recommendations made in the "Clearing the Air" report by independent experts with the International Sustainable Systems Research Center. This report, which I believe members of your board have received, reviews many steps that could be taken, including adopting a "Clean Air Days" rule for mobile diesel sources of NOx emissions.

In addition, we ask the Air Resources Board to direct staff to prepare a "severe" plan that meets Clean Air Act requirements, controls both mobile and stationary and area-wide sources as far as possible, and attains the 8-hour ozone standard by 2017.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rich Fowler

Rich Fowler
Executive Director
Catholic Charities

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