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Mary D. Nichols, Chairperson California Air Resources Board 1001 "I" Street P.O. Box 2815

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December 5, 2008

Proposed Regulation to Reduce Emissions from In-Use On-Road Re: Diesel Vehicles, and Proposed Amendments to Current Diesel **Vehicle Regulations**

Dear Chairperson Nichols:

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District's staff urges the Air Resources Board (ARB) to adopt the proposed regulation to control diesel particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions from on-road vehicles operating in California. This is one of the most important regulations ARB will consider for reducing health risks associated with diesel PM. The Bay Area Air District's Community Air Risk Evaluation Program has shown that diesel PM accounts for over 80% of the cancer risk weighted toxic air contaminant emissions and is the major contributor to airborne health risk in the Bay Area.

The pragmatic, flexible compliance options and schedules for installing abatement devices and fleet turnover will contribute to a sharp drop in exposure to diesel PM to Bay Area residents by 2014. The NOx reductions that will be achieved through the rest of the next decade will be a crucial component of the Bay Area's efforts to meet the State's ambient air quality standards.

The proposed regulation represents a balanced approach that aggressively controls harmful emissions while providing sufficient flexibility to truck owners to implement the best suite of cost-effective controls in their fleets. We support in particular the Early Compliance credits for small fleets that install diesel particulate filters or buy a new truck.

Spare the Ain

The Air District staff looks forward to working closely with ARB to implement a comprehensive compliance program within the Bay Area. We have already held preliminary discussions with ARB staff regarding enforcement of the existing idling and drayage truck regulations. We look forward to building on those discussions to forge an approach consistent with the Strategic Enforcement Plan that is also under consideration at your December Board meeting.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Pamela Torliatt

Chair, Board of Directors

Bay Area Air Quality Management District