

Jan 26, 2012

**Testimony before the California Air Resources Board**

*Hearing at MWD*

*Ernesto*

Good afternoon, members of the California Air Resources Board. My name is ~~Frank~~

*Pantora* ~~Zavala~~ and I am here today representing the ~~Southern California District Council of~~  
Laborers *Local 300*

I am here today to encourage you to move forward with your proposed Advanced Clean Cars Program and to commend the exceptional leadership CARB has shown over several decades in the effort to restore clean air to California.

I say restore because we all know that LA's distinction for having the nation's dirtiest air is really only very recent – our lifetime really. And soon, if you continue your efforts it will be a thing of the past.

It is not often that we as a union speak out for an environmental objective. Our main concern is, of course, ensuring jobs for our members. But we have learned that working together with smart and practical environmental leaders we really can have both clean air and a prosperous economy.

That is one of the lessons of Measure R where our union worked together with environmental leaders, the Los Angeles business community, and other unions to forge a coalition to convince voters to provide the funding needed to build a mostly electric, zero-emission transit system that will create clean air and thousands of jobs for years to come.

We also recognize that air pollution represents a serious burden on our quality of life and on our economy. It costs our community plenty in medical costs and lost work days. It discourages investment in our community, especially from the high-tech industries of the future. We must take it on – head on.

We also recognize that it has been the California Air Resources Board that has led that fight. It was regulation from CARB that pressed our national and even the international auto industry to create hybrid electric cars like the Prius and electric cars like GM's Volt. It is obvious that these advanced technologies have created new technologies and new opportunities for that industry and will create thousands of jobs going forward.

We recognize that these proposed new rules will press that industry forward again – forward into more innovation of the sort we need.

We are prepared to support you in that effort, asking that you ensure that your choices are both economically wise as well as environmentally wise. We need clean air – we also need to create good, new jobs as we clean our air.

Thank you.