

January 19, 2012

Dear Mary Nichols,

We are writing to express our strong support of the California Clean Cars Campaign. Although ozone and particulate matter levels have dropped significantly in Southern California over the last decade, the Los Angeles region still has the highest levels of ozone nationwide, violating federal health standards an average of 137 days a year.

The Mission of the Los Angeles Unified School District Nursing Services Asthma Program is to improve the Health and Academic achievement of students with asthma by reducing asthma exacerbations through the education of students, parents and staff on the prevention and management of asthma.

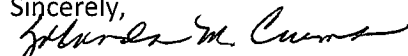
Strengthening California's groundbreaking clean car standards would reduce harmful tailpipe pollution from cars and light trucks, decreasing incidences of asthma attacks, heart and lung disease, respiratory emergency room visits, and cardio and respiratory hospitalizations. According to the American Lung Association, California could avoid at least \$7.2 billion annually in health and other societal costs if our entire fleet were converted to the next generation of cleaner, more efficient vehicles by 2025.

We are deeply concerned about the poor health outcomes caused by air pollution that is driven largely by transportation emissions in California. Along with triggering asthma attacks, exposure to vehicle pollution contributes to new asthma cases, impairs lung function and development and contributes to respiratory and cardiac illnesses and even premature deaths. We are especially concerned about low-income communities and other vulnerable populations including seniors, children, and infants and those already suffering from lung, heart and other chronic diseases.

We urge the California Air Resources Board to move forward this year to protect public health by enhancing California's Low Emission Vehicle (LEV) criteria pollutant and greenhouse gas regulations to reduce emissions from all new motor vehicles and by strengthening the state's Zero Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program.

We believe that the strongest possible motor vehicle emission standards are critically important for the health of Los Angeles residents and, as other states and federal government adopt California vehicle standards, for the health of all Americans.

Sincerely,

  
Yolanda Cuevas, RN, BSN, MAEd

LAUSD Asthma Program, Lead Nurse