

Mendocino AQMD 6Aug04

Comments on the AB1173 Draft report

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I have taken a few minutes to review the AB 1173 draft report and have the following comments.

I find the following statement to be easily refutable and believe ARB should provide more research to back it up

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“Dust mites, cockroaches, and mold are important triggers for asthmatics that are more likely to be present in urban settings where lower income individuals most often live. Additionally, research indicates blood lead levels are higher for poor and minority children in central cities.” (Draft report Page 9)

Since the per-capita income is lower in rural California as a rule and the housing stock is also older and less well maintained I do not see a basis for either one of the arguments that ARB is presenting (argument 1 – urban=poor, argument 2 urban=poorly maintained) I base my statement on the DOF per-cap incomes and the HCD substandard housing percentages.

Please provide a citation for the following - “Additionally, research indicates blood lead levels are higher for poor and minority children in central cities. Formaldehyde levels have been highest in mobile homes, which are more often occupied by lower income families.” In particular I would like to know to whom the blood levels of the poor and minority children were compared (whites, rich, rural, the state average or any combinations of the above) (Also page 9)

The plan does not seem to address indoor air pollution that results for agricultural spraying operations, both from ‘drift’ and from workplace exposures that are brought into the home. These are serious concerns for the minority community in much of rural California.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important report.

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