

**California Communities Against Toxics ♦ Coalition for a Safe Environment ♦
Communities for a Better Environment ♦ Natural Resources Defense Council**

December 22, 2009

VIA U.S. Mail and Electric Mail

Lisa Jackson
Administrator, USEPA
USEPA Headquarters
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N. W.
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, DC 20460

Laura Yoshii
Acting Regional Administrator
Office of the Regional Administrator
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Deborah Jordan
Air Division Director
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Re: Petition to Require California Follow Mandatory SIP Amendment Procedures before
Changing its SIP

Dear Administrator Jackson, Ms. Yoshii and Ms. Jordan:

We were recently made aware of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's December 15, 2009 letter requesting that EPA undertake a process to make a decision on whether to act on our recently filed Petition related to the District's announced intention to implement changes to the State Implementation Plan prior to undergoing the clearly established SIP amendment process.


We understand that the District has asked for some type of briefing process related to this Petition. We think the Petition presents straightforward procedural issues that the EPA can easily evaluate, but if EPA decides a process is necessary, we are more than willing to participate. We ask only that the EPA maintain the status quo pending the completion of any

process it chooses to undertake. Allowing the District to proceed with its announced plan during the process they have requested would effectively deprive us of our requested relief.

Ultimately, our Petition is asking only that the EPA reiterate established federal law. Of course, that clarification will impact the District's plan for how to proceed; however, that is no reason to allow the District to operate in violation of the law, nor is it a reason to strip Petitioners of their right to participate in the SIP revision process prior to the SIP revision becoming effective.

We absolutely agree with the District that the underlying substance of our petition presents important issues. We look forward to a timely resolution of this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact us if you have questions about this issue.

Sincerely,



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