



July 16, 2020

The Honorable Toni Atkins
Senate President *pro Tempore*
State Capitol, Room 205
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Appointment to South Coast Air Quality Management District Governing Board

Dear President *pro tem* Atkins:

We are writing to ask you to make a new appointment to the Governing Board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD). To best represent the Senate and the people of California, the appointee should be someone who has demonstrated a deep commitment to protecting the area's residents from the deadly impacts of air pollution. The Senate appointee should be committed to achieving environmental justice for the four-county region's low-income communities of color, who continue to bear disproportionate burdens from air pollution, climate change and systemic racism.

The South Coast Air Basin has the worst smog in the entire country, along with a serious particulate matter 2.5 problem. Indeed, the South Coast region last year experienced 85 straight days of ozone levels in excess of federal health-based standards. The district faces a series of deadlines between now and 2038 for attaining national standards. Our organizations have grown increasingly concerned that we are clearly not on a track to meet these deadlines, which would mean that our people are condemned to additional decades of lung-searing smog, as well as the threat of federal sanctions for failing to comply with the Clean Air Act.

SCAQMD has recently faltered in taking the steps necessary to clean up our air. A strong new Senate appointee is essential to the Governing Board's meeting the challenges before it, including: adopting facility based measures to control emissions from freight movement; implementing the Best Available Retrofit Control Technology and Community Air Protection requirements of AB 617 (C. Garcia, 2017); and replacing the failed RECLAIM emissions trading program with effective controls on large stationary sources of pollution.

Thank you for considering our views.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Magavern".

Bill Magavern
Policy Director
Coalition for Clean Air

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Victoria Rome".

Victoria Rome
California Legislative Director
Natural Resources Defense Council