

NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN
44TH DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA
WWW.BARRAGAN.HOUSE.GOV
FACEBOOK.COM/CONGRESSWOMANBARRAGAN
[TWITTER: @REPBARRAGAN](https://TWITTER.COM/REPBARRAGAN)

CONGRESSIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS
CHAIRWOMAN

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE
SUBCOMMITTEES:
HEALTH
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE
ENERGY



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
2312 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-8220

DISTRICT OFFICES:
MAIN OFFICE
4201 LONG BEACH BOULEVARD, SUITE 422
LONG BEACH, CA 90807
(310) 831-1799

701 E. CARSON STREET
CARSON, CA 90745

8650 CALIFORNIA AVENUE
SOUTH GATE, CA 90280

July 24, 2024

Members of the Governing Board
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

RE: Proposed Rule 2306 – Freight Rail Yards

Dear Members of the Governing Board:

I support the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (SCAQMD) Proposed Rule 2306 – Freight Rail Yards (Rail Yards ISR) and urge the Governing Board to adopt the rule at the next meeting on August 2, 2024. The need to reduce pollution from freight rail yards in the South Coast Air Basin is long overdue and the proposed rule would result in significant air quality improvements and benefits for the region.

The Rail Yards ISR will deliver the greatest benefits to those living in neighborhoods adjacent to railyards and disproportionately exposed to the deadly impacts of rail pollution. In conjunction with CARB's In-Use Locomotive Rule and Advanced Clean Fleets regulations, the proposed Rail Yards ISR is estimated to reduce over 9 tons of nitrogen oxide emissions each day, which would greatly contribute to improved regional air quality and protecting public health. Additionally, the proposed rule is expected to prevent 275 premature deaths and over 1,940 emergency room visits and hospital admissions each year.

Railroads are an essential part of the supply chain, as well as our local and national economies, but they are also major sources of air pollution with serious public health consequences. My Congressional District, which includes the railyard adjacent communities of Wilmington and Long Beach, is burdened by one of the highest asthma rates in the nation. Existing regulations on locomotives have not kept pace with the cleaner technology readily available, and the railroads have not made sufficient investments in reducing emissions to meet the district's clean air goals or combat excessively polluting trains from operating in the South Coast Air Basin. Strengthening regulations on rail yards will have a significant impact on the health and quality of life of my constituents.

Adoption of the proposed Rail Yards ISR is a necessary step, but the air district must use their legal authority, provided by Congress, to strengthen the regulations and continue to work with our frontline AB617 communities toward solutions that will more effectively reduce pollution

from freight rail yards, accelerate the transition to zero emission facilities, and provide greater public transparency of how the district will hold violators accountable.

As the Representative of California's 44th Congressional District, I respectfully urge the SCAQMD Governing Board to consider the health and quality of life of frontline communities across the South Coast Air Basin by adopting the proposed Rail Yards ISR.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Nanette Diaz Barragán". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Nanette Barragán
Member of Congress