



September 22, 2025

**The Honorable Gavin Newsom**

Governor, State of California  
1021 "O" Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: Request for veto – Senate Bill (SB) 34 (Richardson): Air pollution: South Coast Air Quality Management District: mobile sources: Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.**

Dear Governor Newsom,

We respectfully request your veto of SB 34 (Richardson), relating to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) and the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. SB 34 would constrain South Coast AQMD's efforts to reduce pollution from the region's single largest source of NOx emissions in the smoggiest air basin in the country: the San Pedro Bay Ports and port-related activities. Not only would SB 34 restrict South Coast AQMD's abilities, but it would also create legal ambiguity to stymie any health-protective requirements on the ports. With the Federal rollbacks of California's clean vehicles regulations, California is at risk of falling out of compliance with the Clean Air Act; now is not the time to take away tools from air districts as they work to help our state comply with federal law.

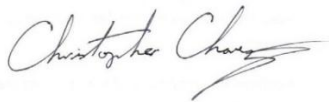
This is unacceptable considering Los Angeles's air quality challenges. The air in Southern California is so bad that we persistently fail to meet both national and state air quality standards. **According to South Coast AQMD, over 1,500 Southern Californians die prematurely every year due to our inability to meet clean air standards.** Yet, SB 34 advances the false narrative that health-protective rulemaking is the problem rather than pollution.

SB 34 would also undermine the work by community, environmental, environmental justice and public health advocates. Community members and advocates have consistently engaged in the rulemaking process, having participated in countless public working groups, community listening sessions and meetings with staff and board members as well as submitting both written comments and verbal testimony at public hearings. SB 34 ignores all of this and would impose top-down restrictions on our local air quality district rather than addressing the lived experience of portside residents.

2025 has proven to be a particularly challenging year for public health, environmental protection and environmental justice. We need strong state and local environmental and environmental justice leadership now more than ever. SB 34, however, would move California in the wrong direction, at the expense of some of our most vulnerable, environmentally burdened communities.

For these reasons, we request you veto SB 34.

Sincerely,



Chris Chavez  
Coalition for Clean Air



Laura Deehan  
Environment California

A stylized, cursive handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal tail.

Mars Wu  
The Greenlining Institute

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Beth Hammon" in a cursive, slightly slanted script.

Beth Hammon  
Natural Resources Defense Council

A handwritten signature in blue ink, featuring a large, stylized initial "B" followed by a few loops.

Bahram Fazeli  
Communities for a Better Environment