

SB 1387 (De León, Lara, Allen) South Coast Air District Reform

BACKGROUND: The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is the air pollution control agency for all of Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, which is an area inhabited by nearly 17 million, the majority of them people of color. Its governing board consists of 13 members, comprised of 10 local government officials and 3 appointed officials.

KEY ISSUES

- The South Coast has the worst smog pollution in the nation. South Coast is in violation of federal and state air quality standards, and the Republican controlled majority has recently adopted measures and proposals that are more in line with the interests of the oil lobby than public health concerns of communities most impacted by pollution.
- SCAQMD Board has little representation from the low-income communities of color that suffer the worst pollution. A number of board members, who now form the majority, have shown lack of concern for the best interests of communities of color and low income communities that are suffering from cumulative and disproportionate impacts of air pollution.
- SCAQMD has been very slow to incorporate concerns of environmental justice communities into key areas of its operation and performance including: Planning, Rule-making, Permitting, Enforcement and Public Participation.

- Environmental justice considerations and proposals are not a priority for this Governing Board, and pleas by people of color for reform, representation, protection and respect have fallen on deaf ears.

PROPOSAL--SB 1387 does two things:

- It adds three new environmental justice appointments to the SCAQMD governing board, one each from the Governor, Senate Rules Committee, and Assembly Speaker.
- It establishes new procedures for Air Resources Board review and concurrence with amendments to districts' market-based mechanisms aimed at reduction of pollution from major sources such as oil refineries.

SUPPORT

- American Lung Association in California
- California Communities Against Toxics
- California Environmental Justice Alliance (CEJA)
- Clean Power Campaign
- Coalition for Clean Air
- Comite Civico Del Valle
- Comite Pro Uno
- Communities for a Better Environment
- Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice
- East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
- IVAN Eastern Coachella EJ Task Force
- Liberty Hill Foundation
- Maternal and Child Health Access
- Pacoima Beautiful
- Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles
- SCOPE
- Sierra Club California

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