March 30, 2020

Chair Nichols and Members of the Board
California Air Resources Board
1001 “I” Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Urgent Need to Continue Course on Clean Air Regulations

Dear Chair Nichols and Members of the Board:

On behalf of the more than 50 undersigned organizations, we write regarding the need to move forward as expeditiously as practicable and uphold life-saving regulations. As the state responds to the current
crisis of the COVID-19 global pandemic, we must not lose sight of the importance of continuing to address harmful air pollution. Many parts of California have the worst air quality in the nation, and it is critical to advance and preserve regulations to reduce exposure to dirty air. Regulations like those addressing Advanced Clean Trucks, Transportation Refrigeration Units, At-Berth Ships, and many others are the bedrocks of the agency’s strategy to clean our air and address climate change. In fact, many of these life-saving regulations are behind schedule. As some in industry are asking the California Air Resources Board to loosen, rollback, delay or pause efforts to clean the air, we ask that you reject these requests as premature and without merit. The health of millions of Californians relies on you keeping in place and moving as expeditiously as possible on regulations and plans to clean the air.

When the California Air Resources Board adopted its last Mobile Source Strategy, it made a clean air promise to all Californian’s that it would deliver regulations to address pollution from various sources by a certain date. As many of these regulations are behind schedule, those promised benefits are already delayed to low-income communities and communities of color, including disadvantaged communities that are disproportionately harmed by air pollution.

We fully understand that difficult challenges lie ahead to overcome the COVID-19 pandemic. But we must not postpone our long term goals as we address this immediate crisis. The solution to the COVID-19 public health crisis is not to pause efforts in addressing another public health crisis of dirty air. In fact dirty air has been proven to compound these health problems reducing immunity to disease and increasing vulnerability in children, pregnant mothers and elders. Our already vulnerable communities are also experiencing the impacts of this pandemic. Communities who have been harmed by air pollution for decades are relying on your agency in these difficult times to continue course on delivering the promises you made to us. Moreover, California has demonstrated substantial economic benefits from the clean energy economy driven by regulations that support clean technologies. These regulations are more important than ever as they are a key tenet of California’s economy and will be a critical facet of the economic stimulus we need to keep California open for business.

We appreciate your dedication to keeping these commitments, and we look forward to working with your agency to pursue life-saving regulations to benefit all breathers in California. We appreciate all the staff from your agency that continue to work hard even in these adverse times.

Sincerely,

Kathy Dervin
350 Bay Area

Ruben Aronin
Better World Group

Gary Hughes
Biofuels Watch

Janet Nudelman
Breast Cancer Prevention Partners
Letters Re Life-Saving Regulations
3/30/2020

Linda Khamoushian
California Bicycle Coalition

Neena Mohan
California Environmental Justice Alliance

Thomas Helme
California Environmental Justice Coalition (CEJC)

Allis Druffel
California Interfaith Power & Light

Melissa Romero
California League of Conservation Voters

Mariela Ruacho
California ReLeaf

Robina Suwol
California Safe Schools

Brian Nowicki
Center for Biological Diversity

Nayamin Martinez
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Kevin Hamilton
Central Coast Asthma Collaborative

Andrea Vidaurre
Center for Community Action and Environmental Justice

Catherine Garoupa White
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

Jesus A. Alonso
Clean Water Action

Chanell Fletcher
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Bill Magavern
Coalition for Clean Air

Jesse Marquez
Coalition for a Safe Environment
Letters Re Life-Saving Regulations
3/30/2020

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Comite Civico del Valle, Inc.

Bahram Fazeli
Communities for a Better Environment

Pamela Flick
Defenders of Wildlife

Cynthia Babich
Del Amo Action Committee

Adrian Martinez
Paul Cort
Yasmine Agelidis
Earthjustice

Taylor Thomas
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice

Dan Jacobson
Environment California

Joy Williams
Environmental Health Coalition

Bill Allayaud
Environmental Working Group

Kim McCoy
Fresno Building Healthy Communities

Jim Lindburg
Friends Committee on Legislation of California

John Mataka
Grayson Neighborhood Council

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Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice

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Letters Re Life-Saving Regulations
3/30/2020

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Sylvia Betancourt
Long Beach Alliance for Children with Asthma

David Pettit
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NextGen California

Ruthie Sakheim
OccupySF Environmental Justice Working Group

Mathew Baker
Planning and Conservation League

Joel Ervice
Regional Asthma Management & Prevention

Peter M. Warren
San Pedro & Peninsula Homeowner’s Coalition

Cheryl Brown
Save the Bay

Kathryn Phillips
Sierra Club

Margaret Rossoff
Sunflower Alliance

David F. Gassman
System Change not Climate Change

Ellie M. Cohen
The Climate Center

Marylia Kelley
Tri Valley CAREs
Letters Re Life-Saving Regulations
3/30/2020

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Union of Concerned Scientists

Jessica Tovar
UEPI at Occidental College

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Valley Improvement Project

Evan Minton
Voices for Progress

Theral Golden
West Long Beach Association

Brian Beveridge
West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

CC: Richard Corey