



March 26, 2021

Senator Susan Eggman
State Capitol, Room 4052
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Requesting Support for Inclusion of the Valley Air District in SB 342

Dear Senator Eggman,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we request your support for adding two environmental justice governing board seats to the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (Valley Air District) through an amendment to SB 342, authored by Senator Lena Gonzalez.

The Valley Air District Governing Board is in sore need of balance, with 13 of the 15 governing board seats dedicated to local elected officials who are openly hostile to reasonable efforts to reduce pollution in the region and address environmental injustices. For years, we have seen the Valley Air District consistently ignore environmental justice and public health considerations in favor of industry-friendly regulations and the preservation of the Valley's polluting status quo. This reality sadly extends even to the Valley Air District's "Environmental Justice Advisory Group," which lacks authority and whose meetings are too often overshadowed by district staff members and industry special interests. As a majority minority region home to some of the most

underserved and heavily polluted communities in the state, the Valley desperately needs more representation on the boards of agencies tasked with protecting our health and environment.

We have been in touch with Senator Gonzalez's office in recent weeks, urging the addition of the Valley Air District to this legislation, which currently only applies to the South Coast Air Quality Management District which includes Senator Gonzalez's district. Your express support is necessary for the Valley Air District to be added to this bill, allowing our communities and your constituents to receive the same environmental justice benefits that Senator Gonzalez is seeking for her district. We strongly believe, and we hope you agree, that adding two environmental justice seats will help address key needs in the San Joaquin Valley's disadvantaged communities, which are located in one of the most polluted air basins in the nation.

We would also like to offer our support in whatever way you might need to facilitate communication with Senator Gonzalez to ensure that SB 342 is amended to include these new positions. Ideally this would be done before the first of two committee hearings, the first of which is on April 12th. In addition to discussing this with your staff member Lilliana Udang, we have worked with Senator Gonzalez's office to draft legislative language that would include the Valley Air District. We are happy to share this proposed amendment language with you if interested.

Please let us know if you support the inclusion of the Valley Air District in SB 342 and will work with us and Senator Gonzalez on this important environmental justice matter.

Sincerely,

Shayda Azamian
Leadership Counsel for Justice & Accountability (LCJA)

Irene Calimlim
Fathers & Families of San Joaquin (FFSJ)

David Diaz
Active San Gabriel Valley

Bahram Fazeli
Communities for a Better Environment (CBE)

Catherine Garoupa White
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition (CVAQ)

Alma Gonzalez
Center for Community Action & Environmental Justice (CCA EJ)

Kevin Hamilton

Central California Asthma Collaborative (CCAC)

Thomas Helme
Valley Improvement Project

Caro Jauregui
California Walks

Nayamin Martinez
Central California Environmental Justice Network (CCEJN)

Rico Mastrodonato
Trust for Public Land (TPL)

Kimberly McCoy
Fresno Building Healthy Communities (BHC)

Ector Olivares
Environmental Justice Program at Catholic Charities Diocese of Stockton

Destiny Rodriguez
The Climate Center

Mark Rose
National Parks Conservation Association (NPCA)

Paula Torrado
Physicians for Social Responsibility - Los Angeles (PSR-LA)

Esperanza Vielma
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water (EJCW)