



Samir Sheikh, Executive Director and Air Pollution Control Officer  
 San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District  
 1990 East Gettysburg Avenue  
 Fresno, California 93726

Wednesday, April 1, 2020

**Re: Urgent Need To Continue Adopting and Enforcing Clean Air Regulations**

Dear Mr. Sheikh and members of the Air District Governing Board,

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge the Air District to proceed as expeditiously and as practicable on life-saving regulations for clean air in the San Joaquin Valley. As you well know, residents in the Valley and nearby public lands suffer numerous adverse impacts to health and quality of life due to having some of the worst air pollution in the nation. While we recognize you and partner agencies must adapt given the COVID-19 pandemic response, including the statewide shelter in place order, it is critical to continue advancing regulations to reduce exposure to harmful air pollution.

Additionally, any proceeding involving a public process must be made safe and accessible by implementing social distancing and offering virtual options, such as making a phone or video-teleconference line available. The pandemic presents many difficult challenges for people across our region, and disproportionately impacted environmental justice communities continue to suffer disproportionately from negative economic and environmental impacts. Community members must maintain full access to these important processes.

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic does not change the urgent need to address the public health crisis of dirty air in the Valley, and in fact makes these actions even more timely. Communities who have been harmed by decades of chronic air pollution are relying on your agency in these difficult times to follow through with existing commitments. Furthermore, the San Joaquin Valley continues to create new jobs in the clean energy economy through the adoption of clean technologies, and our region must continue transitioning to renewable, sustainable, and just systems to achieve clean air.

As industries are asking regulatory agencies like yours to loosen, rollback, delay, or otherwise pause efforts to clean the air, we ask you to reject these requests. The health of

millions of Valley residents relies on expeditious actions from the Air District on regulations and plans to clean the air that meaningfully involve the public. We continue to be committed to work with your agency on health protective regulations to benefit breathers in the San Joaquin Valley. We appreciate the staff at your agency that continue to work hard even in these adverse times.

Sincerely,

Catherine Garoupa White  
Central Valley Air Quality Coalition

Samuel Molina  
Mi Familia Vota

Nayamin Martinez  
Central California Environmental Justice Network

Maricela Mares Alatorre  
El Pueblo para el Aire y Agua Limpia de Kettleman City

Bill Magavern  
Coalition for Clean Air

Bianca Lopez  
Valley Improvement Projects

Julia Jordan  
Leadership Counsel for Justice and Accountability

Mark Rose  
National Parks Conservation Association

Thomas Helme  
California Environmental Justice Coalition

Tom Frantz  
Association of Irrigated Residents

Caroline Farrell  
Center on Race, Poverty, and the Environment

Abre' Conner  
American Civil Liberties of Northern California

Elaine Barut  
Little Manila Rising

Bradley Angel  
Greenaction for Health and Environmental Justice

Sarah Aird  
Californians for Pesticide Reform

Jesus Alonso  
Clean Water Action

cc: Michelle Franco, Clerk to San Joaquin Valley Air District Governing Board