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For Immediate Release

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Sacramento Metropolitan AQMD Appoints Dr. Alberto Ayala New Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Board of Directors today appointed Dr. Alberto Ayala as the District's new Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer.

Ayala will replace Larry Greene, who will retire this summer after successfully leading the District for more than 12 years.

Ayala comes to the District from the California Air Resources Board (CARB) where for the last five years he served as Deputy Executive Officer. Ayala was instrumental in pushing forward California's clean and low carbon vehicle and truck policies including the state's efforts to electrify and transform transportation. Ayala has also served as an Engineering Professor at West Virginia University, where he still holds an adjunct appointment, and as a Design Engineer for Teledyne Ryan Aeronautical. He holds Ph.D., M.S., and B.S. degrees in mechanical engineering from UC Davis, has published in scientific journals extensively, and lectured nationally and internationally.

Ayala plans to reinforce District priorities while strategically focusing on meeting clean air goals. "The Sacramento Metro AQMD is already a hub of activity for successful implementation of local emission control programs to protect public health," said Ayala. "The District is also playing an increasingly important role executing meaningful local climate actions. I want to do my part by identifying innovative solutions to combat climate change and improve air quality."

Sacramento Metro AQMD is responsible for achieving health-based ambient air quality standards through local actions, planning, and monitoring of air pollution. Under Greene's leadership, the region has seen improved air quality and major investments in low-emission vehicles and equipment, including the District's successful deployment of low-carbon solutions funded by California's Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funds.

"I am pleased the Board of Directors has selected a very capable new leader. I have worked with Alberto and know he will bring fresh and new energy to the District," said Greene.

Chair of the Executive Search Committee and former Sacramento Metro AQMD Board Chair Steve Hansen said, "After a national search, Alberto is the perfect fit to lead the District while we strive for clean air and healthy communities in our region. He is uniquely qualified to advance the vision of the Board while building upon the successful work of our staff."

Ayala will assume his new duties on July 17, 2017.