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Sac Metro Air District Responds to Trump Administration's Letter Jeopardizing Essential Transportation Funding

(Sacramento, CA) – Statement from Alberto Ayala, Air Pollution Control Officer and Executive Director of the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District, regarding the Trump Administration's September 24, 2019 letter to California Air Resources Board Chair Mary Nichols:

The Trump Administration is wrong threatening to cut off essential transportation funding for our state. EPA states that California has failed to carry out the State Implementation Plan (SIP) correctly by not submitting timely and approvable plans to the federal government. However, these statements are inaccurate.

In fact, in the winter of 2017 the Sacramento Federal Non-Attainment (SFNA) Region 2008 National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) 8-Hour Ozone Attainment Plan was submitted to EPA. In the summer of 2018, EPA confirmed that a complete SIP had been submitted. Therefore, Administrator Wheeler's letter calling out our region is a complete surprise as the Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District has not been made aware by EPA of any deficiencies in our ozone attainment plan.

Therefore, we conclude that threatening to take away federal highway funding, the same funding that reduces air pollution in California, is ironic at best and vindictive at worst. Instead, given the transportation sector's outsized contribution to total pollution in the Sacramento region, EPA should start by not rolling back sorely needed emission limits on new cars and trucks. We look forward to an Administration that actually does what is best for the health of Sacramento residents by pushing through the current federal SIP backlog, committing to strong emission standards, and ensuring funding that helps clear the skies and protect the health of our residents.

Other responses to the September 24, 2019 letter sent to CARB by EPA's Administrator, Andrew Wheeler:

CARB: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/news/carb-executive-officer-response-epa-letter-state-implementation-plans>

Bay Area Air Quality Management District: <http://www.baaqmd.gov/news-and-events/page-resources/2019-news/092419-statement>

South Coast Air Quality Management District: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/news-archive/2019/statement-on-wheeler-letter-to-carb-sept24-2019.pdf>

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