

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Holly Mitchell, Chair
Senate Committee on Budget and Fiscal Review
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Bob Wieckowski, Chair
Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Sub-Committee 2 - Resources, Environmental Protection,
Energy and Transportation
California State Senate
State Capitol, Room 5019
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Subject: Support for Governor's 2018-2019 \$250M AB 617 Community Air Protection
Proposed Expenditure**

Dear Chairs Mitchell and Wieckowski:

The Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District (SMAQMD) supports the Governor's proposed expenditure of \$250 million in fiscal year 2018-2019 for on-going implementation of early investments for AB 617 Community Air Protection. As one of the large air districts in California, we are on the front line of local clean air action. The Sacramento region is home to many disadvantaged communities with low-income residents and the SMAQMD is ready to ensure that the promise of AB 617 is felt in the capital region.

Last year, the Governor and Legislature adopted AB 617 (C. Garcia) calling for greater action for mitigating the burden of localized toxic pollution in the California communities most disproportionately impacted. The increased focus on community-level protection has huge potential for addressing remaining health disparities in our most vulnerable populations. A key for protecting our communities as intended in AB 617 is the use of public funds in the form of grants and other investments for cleaner and lower-emitting technologies. For two decades the SMAQMD, in partnership with the State's Air Resources Board and other air districts in the capital region, has implemented successfully a portfolio of incentive programs for emission reductions. We are prepared to continue the success of those local programs with the new emphasis on community air protection.

Over the last two decades in the Sacramento region, the SMAQMD has deployed in excess of \$250 million for cleaner heavy-duty trucks, farm tractors, school buses, locomotives, agricultural water pumps, transit buses, construction equipment, and other projects. These investments have resulted in significant emission reductions equivalent to taking approximately one million cars off the road and removing 200,000 wood fireplaces. But, while our air quality progress is palpable, we need to do much more. The region is not in attainment of all health-based

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standards and will not be for many years. The transportation sector (trucks, buses, cars, equipment, etc.) is responsible for most of our air pollution. Grants and incentives for cleaner vehicles and equipment are the most effective way to accelerate emission reductions. We have a long list of shovel-ready projects that can help with the AB 617 goals. The SMAQMD has a project applicant pool of more than \$350 million including opportunities for cleaner locomotives, buses, trucks, farm tractors, passenger cars, and new investments in electric charging and hydrogen fueling infrastructure. The SMAQMD believes the capital region is deserving of an adequate portion of funding sufficient to help our impacted communities. Considering the Sacramento region's share of the state's total number of disadvantaged communities, low-income residents, or population in general, we conclude a minimum of 5% of the proposed early investments or approximately \$12 million should be invested in the region. While, as stated above, there is potential to invest up to \$35 million a year for 10 years, dedicating a third of that amount in next year's budget will begin to deliver meaningful and tangible reductions in toxic emissions in our region. Therefore, we are writing to request that you consider the needs of the Sacramento communities, who are equally deserving of protection as are others, in your budget deliberations for AB 617 grant funding for 2018-2019.

Sincerely,



Alberto Ayala, Ph.D., M.S.E.
Executive Director/Air Pollution Control Officer

cc: Members, Senate Budget and Fiscal Review Sub-Committee 2
Resources, Environmental Protection, Energy, and Transportation
Members, Assembly Budget Sub-Committee 3
Natural Resources and Transportation
The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Governor
The Honorable Toni G. Atkins, Senate President pro Tempore
The Honorable Anthony Rendon, Speake of the Assembly
Donald Terry
Chair, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
Member, Rancho Cordova City Council
Eric Guerra
Vice-Chair, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
Member, Sacramento City Council
Phil Serna
Supervisor, Sacramento County Board
Member, Sacramento Metropolitan Air Quality Management District
Member, California Air Resources Board