


R-17

Date: November 21, 2006

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District 

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) Clean Air Action Plan and Port-Community Air Monitoring Program**

The long-term trend of the quality of air we Southern Californians breathe shows continuous improvement, although recent leveling off in ozone improvement causes marked concern. To ensure continued progress toward clean air and comply with state and federal requirements, the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) in conjunction with the California Air Resources Board, the Southern California Association of Governments and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is preparing the Draft 2007 revision to its Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP). The remarkable historical improvement in air quality since the 1970's is the direct result of Southern California's comprehensive, multiyear strategy of reducing air pollution from all sources as outlined in the AQMP. This Draft 2007 AQMP employs up-to-date science and analytical tools and incorporates a comprehensive strategy aimed at controlling pollution from all sources, including stationary sources, on-road and off-road mobile sources and area sources.

Continuing the Basin's progress toward clean air is a challenging task, not only to recognize and understand complex interactions between emissions and resulting air quality, but also to pursue the most effective possible set of strategies to improve air quality while maintaining a healthy economy. The Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are major contributors to the local economy serving as the point of entry for the nation's goods movement industry. However, the combined Ports of LB/LA – including sources such as ocean-going vessels, harbor craft, trains, trucks, and cargo handling equipment – represent the largest single source of emissions in the Basin, accounting for 73% of SO_x, 24% of NO_x, and 10% of PM_{2.5} in 2020. The Ports of LB/LA have initiated plans to address this serious health issue by adopting the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan. To complement the efforts at the Ports of LB/LA, the South Coast AQMD is developing the "Port-Community Air Monitoring Program" as an element of the AQMD Clean Port Initiative.

While many technical tasks are still underway to complete the Draft 2007 revision, there is sufficient information to begin framing policy discussions on clean air strategies. I would like to present information regarding the South Coast AQMD's Air Quality Management Plan and the "Port-Community Air Monitoring Program" as an element of the AQMD Clean Port Initiative to engage the City of Long Beach in the regional efforts to clean the air we breathe.