

Feb 21, 2006 Long Beach Council Meeting

Dear Mayor Beverly and City Council Members,

In a recent Long Beach Business Journal article (Feb 14, 2006), the Publisher's Perspective said, "Baker did the right thing by resigning. Not because he did anything illegal....., but because he no longer had his heart in being a councilman.Baker told this writer that councilmembers don't talk to each other, making it extra difficult to get anything done."

The article went on to say, "It's not a cohesive unit as some councilmembers seem to evoke. It's a very dysfunctional, argumentative and indecisive group, with little citywide perspective. Doing what's best for the city has given way to doing what's best for a councilperson's district."

There are far too many important issues facing our City for this type of situation to continue. If a disease or dysfunction affects one part of a body, it will eventually spread to the rest if not treated properly. That is what I see happening in Long Beach. This Council and this City need to heal and be whole again.

I implore this Council to resolve issues amongst you, to operate in an ethical manner devoid of conflicts of interest, to keep your campaign promises to your constituents, and above all to keep the neighborhoods first and the citywide perspective near to your hearts.

I am here tonight, not to lambaste nor condone ANY individual's actions, not because I am running a campaign, not because I aspire to any higher political office, not to cater to self-serving special interests, not because of monetary gain; but I am here because I love this City and care very much what befalls it. I only ask the same of you.

In his infinite wisdom, Chief Seattle reminded us that we are all part of the web of life and that whatever happens to one part of the web will affect the entirety. We are all connected.

Thank you,
Diana Lejins



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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October 2005

Dear Long Beach Community Leader:

I would like to invite you to join the Governing Board of South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) on Friday, November 4 for a *Mobile Board Meeting* at the Long Beach City Hall at 333 Ocean Ave. The meeting will be conducted from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

AQMD is seeking participation from community leaders to better understand, reach consensus, and formulate solutions in regard to air pollution from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. As I am sure you are aware, the ports have long been the No. 1 fixed source of air pollution in the region, and their emissions are projected to grow substantially as trade and goods movement increase. AQMD has the overall responsibility for controlling air pollution in the region to meet federally mandated air quality standards. To best reach this challenging goal we need to hear from you and your constituents.

In addition to conducting our regular Board business, we will be providing you and other members of the community direct access to address the AQMD Board on major air quality topics. A special extended public comment period will take place from approximately 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. I hope to see you on November 4th as we continue our commitment to take all feasible steps to reduce air pollution at the ports and protect residents' public health.

To help gauge our attendance, we would appreciate your R.S.V.P. before Tuesday, November 1, to Leann Levine by e-mail at leann@nakatomipr.com or by phone at (310) 914-5000.

Sincerely,

Dr. William A. Burke
Chair, Governing Board
South Coast Air Quality Management District

Clearing the air that we breathe.