



February 10, 2025

South Coast Air Quality Management District
c/o Public Affairs Office
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

RE: Letter Opposing SCAQMD Proposed Rules 1111 and 1121

The City of Upland opposes Proposed Rules 1111 and 1121, two rules South Coast Air Quality Management District are considering transitioning natural gas-fired furnaces and water heaters to zero-emission alternatives. While I fully support the overarching goals of improving air quality, I am deeply concerned about the significant financial burdens these new regulations could impose on homeowners, renters, and businesses—particularly those who are already struggling in a challenging economic environment.

One of the most pressing concerns is the potential for increased costs to residential property owners and renters. As the regulations are implemented, many homeowners may be required to invest in costly upgrades to their homes to comply with the new NOx standards. Renters will also feel the impact indirectly, as landlords may pass on these added costs in the form of higher rents.

Similarly, businesses, especially small businesses, could face substantial financial strain as they work to meet the new emissions standards. Many will be forced to make expensive equipment upgrades or invest in new technologies that may not be financially feasible in the short term. This could lead to layoffs, reduced working hours, or even the closure of some businesses, further exacerbating the economic challenges faced by local communities.

While environmental protections are essential, it is crucial that the costs of these measures do not disproportionately burden everyday people and local businesses. I urge you to consider alternative approaches that allow for meaningful emissions reductions without causing severe financial hardship.

I respectfully ask that you re-evaluate the proposed rules and explore other innovative solutions that balance environmental goals with economic realities. A more balanced approach is needed to ensure that we protect both our environment and the economic well-being of our communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Bill Velto".

Bill Velto,
Mayor of Upland