

# SELAUNITED

January 25, 2022

South Coast Air Quality Management District  
c/o Governing Board Chair Ben Benoit, Vice Chair Vanessa Delgado and Members  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

## **RE: Rendering Plant Odor Affecting Southeast Los Angeles Communities**

Dear Governing Board Chair Benoit, Vice Chair Delgado and Members:

We are writing to you to urge you to take immediate action to strengthen and clarify Rule 415, the South Coast Air Quality Management District's policy regarding Rendering Plants.

For years our Southeast Los Angeles communities have voiced concerns about harmful and bothersome odors wafting from local rendering facilities. The harsh odors are a daily occurrence for our communities, some of the most densely populated, multicultural and under-resourced communities in the District.

Rule 415, adopted November 3, 2017, describes requirements for Odor Mitigation Plans, signage and tracking of odor complaints, and record-keeping at Rendering Plants. However, the rule does not specify consequences for Rendering Plants that do not meet these requirements.

Instead of inspections with enforcement, staff follow internal policies that rely on a quantity of external complaints about odors. When three or more individual complaints are received within a one-hour period, an inspector is sent out to verify and confirm the source. Upon confirmation from six individual reports, the plant may be issued a public nuisance violation. The rule is vague about accountability and requires several hours per day from individuals looking to report odor nuisances.

The District's internal policies are neither transparent nor effective. There are many situations the rule does not contemplate. For example: What happens when callers wish to remain anonymous? When they withhold their addresses because of fear of repercussions, especially if they fear government officials knocking on their doors? What if the smells are seeping through windows in the middle of the night?

Our communities are already overcoming several institutional barriers and difficulties. Reporting air quality concerns should not further disenfranchise environmental justice communities like those in Southeast Los Angeles. We urge you to refer this matter immediately to the Stationary Source Committee to discuss strengthening and clarifying Rule 415.

Sincerely,



Anthony Rendon  
Speaker, CA State Assembly (AD-63)



Cristina Garcia  
Member, CA State Assembly (AD-58)



Jackie Goldberg  
Board Member District 5, LAUSD



Alicia Romero  
Mayor, City of Bell



Ana Maria Quintana  
Vice Mayor, City of Bell



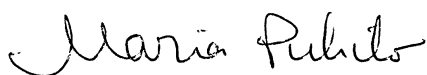
Ali Saleh  
Councilmember, City of Bell



Fidencio Joel Gallardo  
Councilmember, City of Bell



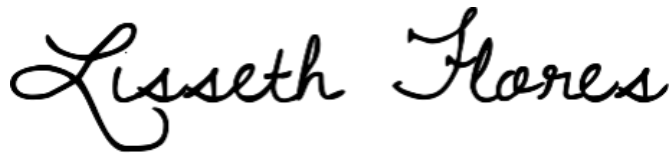
Monica Arroyo  
Councilmember, City of Bell



Maria Pulido  
Mayor, City of Bell Gardens



Marco Barcena  
Councilmember, City of Bell Gardens



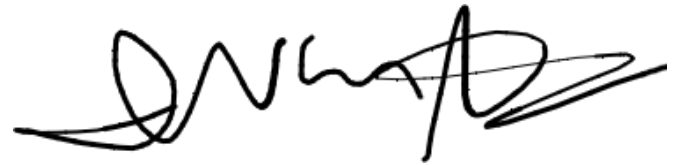
Lisseth Flores  
Councilmember, City of Bell Gardens



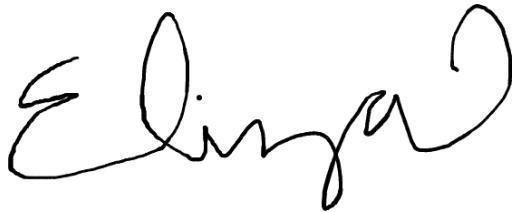
Leonard Mendoza  
Mayor, City of Commerce



Oralia Rebollo  
Mayor Pro Tem, City of Commerce



Ivan Altamirano  
Councilmember, City of Commerce



Elizabeth Alcantar  
Mayor, City of Cudahy



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Councilmember, City of Maywood

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Councilmember, City of South Gate



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