



The Honorable Gavin Newsom  
Governor of California  
1021 O Street, Suite 9000  
Sacramento, CA 95814

September 7, 2022

**RE: AB 2550 State Air Resources Board: Ambient Air Quality Standards: Non-attainment Districts – VETO REQUEST**

Dear Governor Newsom:

On behalf of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Policy Council, we respectfully ask for your veto of AB 2550 (Arambula). This bill would require the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to take specified interventions, including coordination, assistance, outreach, monitoring, regulation, and enforcement, regarding the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District (District). AB 2550 however will add cost without any additional air quality benefit, does not recognize CARB's existing significant oversight authority or provide for a collaborative process that already occurs between local air districts and CARB. Ultimately, the bill does not provide any additional tools to address mobile source emissions, the largest contributor to the state's air quality challenges.

The District and CARB have a long successful history of working together to develop and implement plans to bring the San Joaquin Valley into compliance with state and federal air quality standards and improve public health. Air districts have the expertise and primary authority to regulate *stationary* sources of emissions, with CARB having regulatory authority over *mobile sources* (which produce 85% of the Valley's NOx emissions). Current law requires air quality plans to be developed jointly between CARB and local air districts with extensive public participation throughout the process. CARB currently provides input into air district's regulatory activities and has the authority to step in and take over an air district's activities if the District fails to fulfill its obligations. CARB has never had the need to exercise this authority. Limited state resources would be better spent on reducing mobile source emissions which are the largest contributor to the Valley's air quality challenge.

The San Joaquin Valley faces one of the most significant air quality challenges in the country due to its unique topography, climate, geography, and the presence of two major transportation corridors (Interstate 5 and State Route 99), creating a significant public health challenge for Valley residents. Our region represents one of the most productive agricultural regions in the nation, if not the world. Over 25 percent of the nation's food supply, and \$35 billion in economic activity, is generated annually. This requires farmworkers and laborers to use highways. We have nearly 27 million registered drivers in this state, all of whom use our highways for travel to work and visiting national parks. The state's population has quadrupled since the highway system was built in the 1950s, which has exacerbated

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the challenge to address mobile sources, particularly with 50% of national imports coming through the Ports of Long Beach/Los Angeles and Oakland that utilize the Valley's arterials to get goods to market. The Valley also has seven out of the 10 most disadvantaged communities in the state, with a low population density in many communities that rely on the automobile to conduct daily activities.

A more productive approach to improve air quality would be to calibrate vehicle miles traveled targets for the region, accelerate and prioritize funding approved by the legislature for zero-emission vehicle charging infrastructure and incentives for passenger vehicles and commercial trucks, build out passenger rail systems such as ACE/ San Joaquins and Valley Link to compel mode-shift, and complete multi-modal highway projects or deliver truck-only lanes to prevent trucks and cars from idling.

For these reasons, we ask that you veto AB 2550. Thank you for your consideration. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact our legislative advocate, Gus Khouri, via phone at (916) 605-8975 or via email [gus@khouriconsult.com](mailto:gus@khouriconsult.com).

Sincerely,



Robert Poythress  
Chair of the San Joaquin Valley Regional Planning Agencies Policy Council  
Madera County Supervisor

cc: The Honorable Joaquin Arambula, Assembly Member, 31st District  
Lauren Sanchez, Senior Advisor for Climate, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom  
Hazel Miranda, Deputy Legislative Secretary, Office of Governor Gavin Newsom  
David E. Garcia, Legislative Director, California Air Resources Board