



****ASSEMBLY FLOOR ALERT****

SB 34 (Richardson) SCAQMD ISR Alternative

OPPOSE

SB 34 (Richardson) is faced with business and environmental community Opposition. While business and environmental approaches to Opposition of SB 34 are different, both sides agree that while negotiations on a potential cooperative agreement between the Cities and Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach and the South Coast Air Quality Management District are underway the passage of SB 34 could undercut the positions of these parties and put vital issues at risk of premature decision making.

The SCAQMD Board agreed to pause rulemaking to give this negotiation process a legitimate chance. Just the fact that SB 34 exists put these negotiations at-risk, and pushing the proposal further in advance of the negotiation timeline undermines the process, disincentivizes earnest negotiations, and could force a predetermined result. On August 28th SCAQMD reported at their Cooperative Agreement Workshop that progress has been made and discussions are progressing further underscoring the superfluous and premature nature of SB 34.

Earlier this year the Port of San Diego and San Diego Air Pollution Control District enacted a cooperative agreement that was mutually beneficial and enjoyed support of both business and environmental advocates. The state should be encouraging cooperative agreements not undermining them or putting a “thumb on the scale”.

Too Important to Fail: The issues at the heart of this negotiation are critical to a healthy community: jobs and clean air. Economic sustainability and health should be achieved in lockstep via an agreement, not a flex of legislative power or political theater. Ports are the economic lifeblood of the state, responsible for millions of jobs and tax revenue in California. This must be balanced with air quality improvements.

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