June 5, 2013

South Coast Air Quality Management District
Public Records Coordinator/Public Records Unit
21865 Copley Dr.
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

REQUEST FOR PUBLIC RECORDS AND INFORMATION

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) is considering drastic measures to ban wood burning fire pits at Southern California beaches as part of the proposed changes to Rule 445 and Rule 444 in a purported attempt to further reduce fine particulate matter (PM2.5) in the South Coast Air Basin (“Basin”).

Eliminating wood burning fire pits would have serious negative effects on the City of Huntington Beach as well as the public at large and we believe that smoke from wood burning fire pits has minimal impact on PM2.5 levels in the Basin.

We have been contacted by respected experts in scientific analysis and air pollution health effects research who question the conclusions of the May 3, 2013 Draft Final Staff Report and the May 15, 2013 AQMD Report on Beach Fire Monitoring Results (“Staff Reports”).

We believe that the qualifications of the authors of these reports, as well as the raw data, methodology, and types of equipment used in preparing these reports, should be made available to the public for peer review and analysis. Allowing public review of this information serves an important government and public interest and will help ensure a fair and transparent process.

Therefore, acting both in our individual capacities as members of the public under the California Public Records Act (Government Code Section 6250 et seq.) and as Members of the Legislature, we request the following information:
The names of the AQMD staff or consultants who authored or contributed to the staff reports cited above, as well as their educational qualifications and relevant work experience;

The names of the AQMD staff or consultants who conducted testing or gathered data used in preparing the staff reports, as well as their certifications, professional licenses, or other information that will show they are qualified in the operation of the equipment used to gather the data relied upon in the reports;

All memos, notes, and any other information used to prepare the above referenced staff reports;

A list of all testing equipment used in conducting the research as well as all calibration reports and certification certificates for the equipment used; and

Any other information you have that will help us meet the objectives set forth in this request.

Any third parties that review this information will be willing to provide their credentials and allow for scrutiny of their expertise and motives. We believe that AQMD and its staff should be subjected to the same level of scrutiny.

Please let us know when this information will be available. If you have any questions, call Chad Morgan at (714) 668–2100 or chad.morgan@asm.ca.gov

Sincerely,

ALLAN R. MANSOOR
Assemblyman, 74th District

MIMI WALTERS
Senator, 37th District

CURT HAGMAN
Assemblyman, 55th District

TRAVIS ALLEN
Assemblyman, 72nd District

cc South Coast AQMD Board Members