



Air Resources Board



Matthew Rodriguez
Secretary for
Environmental Protection

Mary D. Nichols, Chairman
1001 I Street • P.O. Box 2815
Sacramento, California 95812 • www.arb.ca.gov

Edmund G. Brown Jr.
Governor

September 16, 2011

Mr. Martin Schlageter
Coalition for Clean Air
811 W. 7th Street, Suite 1100
Los Angeles, California 90017

Dear Mr. Schlageter:

Thank you for the petition that you submitted at the June 23, 2011 Air Resources Board (ARB) Hearing (Board Hearing) requesting ARB to develop a mandatory vessel speed reduction (VSR) measure. I appreciate your concerns and am pleased to respond. The ARB response to the petition as required under Government Code section 11340.7 follows:

As indicated at the Board Hearing, staff is continuing work on the VSR technical assessment. Part of that work will include an updated emissions inventory, air dispersion modeling, and health risk assessment. Additionally, we will be exploring several implementation options, such as regulatory and voluntary options. Currently, the Ports of Los Angeles, Long Beach, and San Diego have very successful VSR programs. We will also be looking at other agencies to determine if there is an international, federal, or State agency which may be better suited to mandate ship speeds.

One of our challenges will be to evaluate the impacts that a VSR program will have on vessel traffic patterns. Specifically, we are concerned that a VSR program in the Santa Barbara Channel could provide incentives for vessels to transit into the Point Mugu Naval Sea Range (Naval Sea Range). To avoid reduced speed requirements in the Santa Barbara Channel, vessels could transit into the Naval Sea Range and disrupt military operations. At the hearing, the Board approved amendments to the Regulation for Fuel Sulfur and Other Operational Requirements for Ocean-Going Vessels within California Waters and 24 Nautical Miles of the California Baseline. These amendments are expected to minimize the amount of traffic transiting through the Naval Sea Range.

The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.

California Environmental Protection Agency

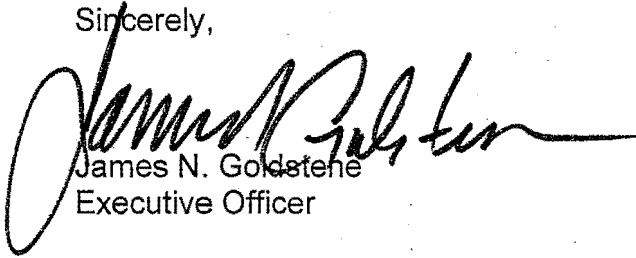
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Results of our technical assessment will be provided in public workshops over the next year. We look forward to working with you on this important program. If you have any questions please contact Mr. Robert Krieger, Manager, Emissions Evaluation Section at (916) 323-1202 or rkrieger@arb.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



James N. Goldstone
Executive Officer

cc: Robert Krieger
Manager, Emissions Evaluation Section
Stationary Source Division