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Subject: El Centro Heber Calexico emissions reduction program
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California Air Resources Board
January 15, 2020

Written Comments:
Public Meeting to Consider Assembly Bill 617
Community Emissions Reduction Program -
El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor
Sacramento, CA 95814

From: Prof. Dr. Tony Pereira, UCLA ME PhD, Fulbright Fellow

Dear Mary Nichols & California Air Resources Board,

The air pollution problems experienced in the El Centro-Heber-Calexico Corridor are a symptom of a vastly more complex situation than simple air pollution. It goes way beyond that. It has multiple causes.

The sources of air pollution originate in the current 'agricultural' methods used by the regional 'farmers' in the production of grasses, hay & alfalfa, soil tilling methods, chemicals used in the production of those inputs for cattle raising, about 4,000,000, that's FOUR MILLION pounds of pesticides, herbicides & fertilizers that end up in the air, water & food, and the end burning of vast quantities of alfalfa at the season's end to 'clear' the field & resume the cycle for the next 'season' of destruction.

This has to stop in order to stop the air, water, soil & food pollution that ultimately ends in human beings, plants & animals & our children.

We need an eco-sustainable plan for the region, for the entire Imperial Valley, and ultimately for the whole of California, that will revert our agricultural methods to soil buildup & conservation, storing carbon into the soil instead of burning it, eliminating chemical, insecticides, pesticides & chemical fertilizers, use animals to store & fertilize the soil. Recently, the state of Sikkim in India reverted exclusively to organic regenerative farming, no synthetic chemicals, no GMOs and associated poisons. The state of Bhutan declared also a complete adoption of organic methods. Will California be next ?

As the 7th largest economy in the world today, California can send a powerful signal to the world & set the trend, as it has many times in the past. Organic farming can feed the world, numerous scientific studies in top reputable peer reviewed prove it. Such a move will be good for the people in California, for its economy as the 50% of produce, fruits & vegetables that the rest of the country will be highly rated, safe & higher quality, good for bees now in very serious decline, birds whose populations have been reduced by 3,000,000,000, that's THREE BILLION in recent decades, plants, animals, wo/men & children.

An 'eco-sustainable plan' for the region would include all of the above and the consequent restoration of the Salton Sea, that would then be receiving cleaner runoff, free of excessive synthetic nitrogen, pesticides, herbicides & other chemicals. Since the Salton Sea is about 200' below sea level and not too far away from the Sea of California, a direct intake of fresh sea water could then economically be built to replenish the basin & restore the Salton Sea to historical levels, maintain low levels of salinity without disrupting the region beauty, tourism, ecology, biodiversity, quality of life, air pollution abatement, health, job security & environmental integrity.

Peace

Prof. Dr. Tony Pereira, UCLA ME PhD, Fulbright Fellow
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References:

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Pereira, Tony. "The transition to a sustainable society: a new social contract." *Environment, development and sustainability* 14.2 (2012): 273-281.

Pereira, Tony. "Eco-Sustainability: A Revolution in Education." *Sustainability: The Journal of Record* 9.4 (2016): 167-170.

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'daily: humanity has wiped out 60% of all animal wildlife populations since 1970, mammals, bird populations have declined by 3,000,000,000, that's three billion folks! in the USA alone, fish, amphibians, insects, reptiles ...

Cheers and ... eat local organic,
don't drink water out of plastic bottles (pottles),
drive/fly/wire less...much less, walk more.

Prof. Dr. Tony Pereira, Fulbright Scholar, UCLA ME Ph.D.

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Smart men
those Toltecs
for they know
how to maintain

a dialogue
with their heart.

Toltec poem circa 500 B.C.

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