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Ventura County Air Pollution Control District Statement on Mr. Andrew Wheeler’s letter to California Air Resource Board

VENTURA, Calif. - Dr. Laki Tisopulos, Air Pollution Control Officer for the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD), issued the following statement in response to a widely reported letter sent by Mr. Andrew R. Wheeler, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator to Ms. Mary D. Nichols, Chair of the California Air Resources Board (CARB).

“We are extremely disappointed at the erroneous assertions included in the letter. We are particularly at a loss as to why Ventura County is listed on Mr. Wheeler’s letter. Ventura County has already attained the 1997 eight-hour ozone standard, as acknowledged by the EPA in its September 14, 2012, publication to the Federal Register (Vol.77, No. 179). With respect to the 2008 ozone standard, the deadline to meet the standard is not due until end of 2020 and initial data shows Ventura County is on its way to attaining the standard.

“We are proud of the progress made to date in improving air quality in Ventura County. VCAPCD will aggressively continue its effort to protect public health and agriculture from adverse effects of air pollution. What we ask of the EPA is to be a true partner in this effort and do its fair share in helping our communities with their quest for clean air.”

Other responses to the September 24, 2019 letter sent to CARB by EPA Administrator Wheeler:

CARB: <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/news/carb-executive-officer-response-epa-letter-state-implementation-plans>

Bay Area Air Quality Management District: <http://www.baaqmd.gov/news-and-events/page-resources/2019-news/092419-statement>

South Coast Air Quality Management District: <http://www.aqmd.gov/docs/default-source/news-archive/2019/statement-on-wheeler-letter-to-carb-sept24-2019.pdf>

Sacramento Air Quality Management District: <http://www.airquality.org/Communications/Documents/APCO%20Response%20EPA%20threat%20to%20ARB.pdf>