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Air Resources Board

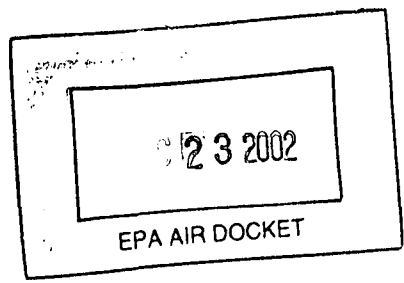
Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Chairman

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Winston H. Hickox
Agency Secretary

December 5, 2002

Mr. Jeffrey R. Holmstead
Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20460



Dear Mr. Holmstead:

I am writing to urge the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to ensure expeditious progress toward achieving clean and healthful air as you transition to a new 8-hour ozone standard. During this transition, it is critical to maintain the momentum of our control programs -- and our progress toward clean air.

In California, almost 30 million people live in areas designated nonattainment for the existing federal 1-hour ozone standard. While we are making good progress in reducing air pollution in California, additional new clean air strategies are needed if we are to meet this important public health goal. The concept of revoking the 1-hour standard long before it is attained would simply delay the public health benefits envisioned by the Clean Air Act.

Under the most optimistic scenario for implementing the 8-hour standard, years of planning would ensue before the adoption of any new control strategies. Attainment deadlines would be pushed far into the future. While this process may be necessary for areas that already comply with the 1-hour standard, it should not be a mechanism to slow progress in those areas that do not. U.S. EPA should not revoke the 1-hour standard in existing nonattainment areas when new 8-hour designations are made. Such an action would clearly be a weakening of the current requirements.

While the 8-hour standard may ultimately be more health protective, preserving the 1-hour standard will ensure that areas continue to pursue every available emission reduction opportunity -- providing healthful air as quickly as possible. If you would like to discuss this in more detail, please call me at (916) 445-4383.

Sincerely,
/s/

Michael P. Kenny
Executive Officer

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