Mayor
  Joe Stapleton
Mayor Pro Tem
  Lauren Kleiman
Council Members
  Michelle Barto
  Noah Blom
  Robyn Grant
  Sara J. Weber
  Erik Kenneth Weigand

April 29, 2025

Honorable Vanessa Delgado, Chair
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, CA 91765

RE: Opposition to Proposed Amended Rules 1111 and 1121

Dear Chair Delgado and Governing Board members,

I write on behalf of the City of Newport Beach to express our continued opposition to the proposed amendments to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Rules 1111 and 1121, as we have serious concerns about the financial burdens the draft rule changes would impose on Newport Beach residents and businesses.

The proposed rules call for the phasing in of more expensive, zero-NOx emission appliances, which often require property owners to make costly mechanical, electrical or plumbing retrofits. Though the rules would not outright ban natural gas appliances, the imposition of mitigation fees and sales caps on manufacturers would very likely result in increased costs for consumers. Thus, residents would be left to choose between one expensive option or another.

Furthermore, moving from natural gas appliances to more electric appliances would further strain California's already stressed electrical grid. We know firsthand the state's electric supply system often struggles to keep up with demand, as residents and businesses in certain Newport Beach neighborhoods continue to routinely experience power outages on peak usage days. Significantly increasing demand on the already taxed electrical infrastructure will lead to even more financial and operational burdens on local residents and business owners.

For these reasons, the City of Newport Beach respectfully opposes the amended Rules 1111 and 1121.

Sincerely,

Joe Stapleton
Mayor
City of Newport Beach

cc: Newport Beach City Council
        Jen Vinh, SCAQMD