



**Santa Barbara County
Air Pollution Control District**

Our Vision  Clean Air

March 22, 2007

The Honorable Alan Lowenthal
California State Senate
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Support Letter for Senate Bill 974 – Financing of Port Congestion Relief and Port Mitigation Relief.

Dear Senator Lowenthal:

The Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) appreciates the opportunity to provide support for Senate Bill 974 -- Financing of Port Congestion Relief and Port Mitigation Relief. Although Santa Barbara County does not have a port, the county has 130 miles of coastline that are heavily traveled (over 7000 transits in 2005) by ocean-going vessels. Given the location of the Santa Barbara Channel Islands, large ships are often traveling and emitting pollutants just ten to fifteen miles off our coastline. According to detailed emissions inventories conducted for APCD's 2007 Clean Air Plan, large ships going through the Santa Barbara Channel produce over 40% of the precursors to ozone air pollution in Santa Barbara County, more than all the on-road Oxides of Nitrogen (NOx) and Reactive Organic Compounds (ROC) emissions from cars, trucks and buses in Santa Barbara County combined. By 2020, these emissions are projected to make up over 75% of the emissions of ozone precursors in the County.

We understand that Senate Bill 974 will provide funding for projects consistent with the Emission Reduction Plan adopted April 2006 which includes strategies to reduce emissions from ocean-going ships. These strategies include the use of emulsified fuels, extensive retrofit of existing engines, and highly effective controls on main and existing engines. We believe that it is very important to reduce emissions from ocean-going ships as they represent the largest uncontrolled source of emissions impacting both Santa Barbara County and Southern California. The funding derived from the proposed thirty dollar assessment on each twenty-foot equivalent unit will provide much needed funding to reduce the air quality impacts associated with goods movement activities in the region.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions regarding the contents of this letter.

Sincerely,

Terry Dressler
Air Pollution Control Officer

Terence E. Dressler • Air Pollution Control Officer

260 North San Antonio Road, Suite A • Santa Barbara, CA • 93110 • www.sbapcd.org • 805.961.8800 • 805.961.8801 (fax)