

Council Meeting of  
March 7, 2006

Honorable Mayor and Members  
of the City Council  
City Hall  
Torrance, California

**Members of the Council:**

**SUBJECT: Support AB 2015 (Lieu) to add four additional municipal members to SCAQMD Board**

**RECOMMENDATION**

Recommendation of the **City Manager** that City Council adopt a **RESOLUTION** supporting AB 2015 (Lieu) which requires change in membership of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Board to add four additional municipal members: one additional municipal representative for each county represented by the District.

**Funding**

N/A

**BACKGROUND**

The South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) is a representative entity that regulates air quality and smog control for the South Coast area, consisting of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. The SCAQMD Board has traditionally consisted of 12 members who are selected in varying ways. Three of the members are selected by officials in Sacramento: the governor, the Assembly Speaker, and the Senate Rules Committee. Four members are selected by the county boards of supervisors in Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties. There is also one municipal member each selected from each of the municipalities of the three counties, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino. In Los Angeles County, two representatives are selected, one from an area designated as the Eastern Sector, and one from an area designated as the Western Sector. Statistically, Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties each represent about 16.6 percent of the voting authority on the District Board. Los Angeles County represents 25 percent.

Within the Western Sector of Los Angeles County, which includes the City of Los Angeles, a representative is selected by a majority of the cities with the majority of the population. The practical, historical result is that the representative has always been an elected official from the City of Los Angeles, or the board position is vacant.

Another issue is that because a statute specifically notes which cities are incorporated into the Western Sector, cities which have only recently been incorporated are automatically placed in the Eastern Sector, regardless of location.

## **ANALYSIS**

In order to encourage fair regional policy-making, a Task Force set forth a recommendation which would realign cities within the Los Angeles sectors in order to create geographic equity. California State Assemblymember Ted Lieu has since introduced the recommendation as AB 2015, which proposes to add four municipal members to the SCAQMD Board, one additional municipal member from each of the four counties. The additional representative in the Los Angeles County would be selected from the Western Sector, which would allow the City of Los Angeles to have its own representative without neglecting the needs and interests of other cities represented in the Western Sector. This proposal would not affect the Sacramento appointments, and the tenures of the current Board members would not be impacted by the change.

Whereas Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino had previously each represented about 16.6 percent of the voting authority on the Board, this change would increase their voting authority to 18.3 percent each, better corresponding with their growth. Los Angeles County's voting authority would remain at 25 percent.

The rationale behind adding four additional members to the SCAQMD Board includes the following elements:

- Providing separate seats for a city within the Western Sector and the City of Los Angeles;
- Realigning cities within Los Angeles County into sectors which are more geographically equitable;
- Providing additional elected official representation for all of the counties within the District;
- Retaining the expertise of the Sacramento appointees;
- Fostering greater "buy-in" by providing more local input and participation by elected officials in the District's decision-making process; and
- Aligning the representation on the Board with explosive population growth experienced by the region within the next thirty years.

The proposal has been supported by various entities including the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments, the Gateway Council of Governments, the League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division, the Contract Cities Association, the Independent Cities Association and the City of Los Angeles.

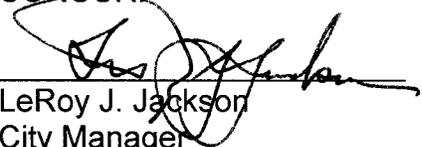
The City Manager thus recommends that the City Council approve the attached resolution to support AB 2015 (Lieu) to more fairly represent the interests of the South Bay cities and other cities in the Western Sector of Los Angeles County.

Respectfully submitted,

LeROY J. JACKSON  
CITY MANAGER

By   
Olivia Lopez  
Senior Management Associate

CONCUR:

  
LeRoy J. Jackson  
City Manager

Attachments:

- A. Copy of Resolution to be adopted



**RESOLUTION NO. 2006-\_\_\_\_****A RESOLUTION BY THE TORRANCE CITY COUNCIL  
AUTHORIZING SUPPORT OF AB 2015 (LIEU) WHICH ENHANCES  
MUNICIPAL REPRESENTATION ON THE SCAQMD BOARD OF  
DIRECTORS**

**WHEREAS**, it is in the interest of all municipal governments that cities be equitably represented on policy-making regional boards; and,

**WHEREAS**, the current number of municipal representatives on the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) does not fully recognize cities in the South Bay and Westside Sectors of Los Angeles County and places the cities of Calabasas and Malibu in what is identified by statute as the Eastern Sector of the SCAQMD jurisdiction; and

**WHEREAS**, providing separate seats for a city within the Western Sector and the City of Los Angeles will ensure that the population of the City of Los Angeles and the populations of smaller cities in the Western and Eastern Sectors are represented on the SCAQMD Board commensurate with their populations; and

**WHEREAS**, realigning cities within Los Angeles County into sectors which are more geographically equitable is significant and important to regional policy decision-making; and

**WHEREAS**, providing the cities of Orange, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties with representation which more fairly represents their growing population and greater pollution levels fosters greater "buy-in" by providing more local input and participation by elected officials throughout the District; and

**WHEREAS**, the current proposal would retain the expertise of the Sacramento appointees; and

**WHEREAS**, the current proposal has received the support of the South Bay Cities Council of Governments, the Las Virgenes-Malibu Council of Governments, the Gateway Council of Governments, the League of California Cities, Los Angeles County Division, the Contract Cities Association, the Independent Cities Association and the City of Los Angeles.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TORRANCE HEREBY: support AB 2015 by Assemblymember Ted Lieu which requires a change in membership of the SCAQMD Board to add four additional municipal members: one additional municipal representative for each county represented by the District.

Introduced, approved and adopted this 7th day of March, 2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor Dan Walker

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
JOHN FELLOWS III, City Attorney

ATTEST:

by \_\_\_\_\_  
Ronald T. Pohl, Assistant City Attorney

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Herbers, CMC  
City Clerk