



Santa Barbara County
Air Pollution Control District

April 23, 2013

Mary Nichols, Chair
California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street, PO Box 2815
Sacramento, CA 95812

Re: Comments on Draft Greenhouse Gas Investment Plan to be discussed at April 25, 2013
California Air Resources Board meeting

Dear Chair Nichols and California Air Resources Board Members:

I am writing to urge that the Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District's proposal for a voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction (VSR) Incentive Program along the California coast to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions be included in the final GHG Investment Plan.

The VSR program has received support from a range of organizations, agencies, and businesses, including the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, the Environmental Defense Center, the California Coastal Commission, the California Air Pollution Control Officers Association, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, and more. I have attached the support letters; based on these, plus additional support from individual California citizens, the GHG Investment Plan should certainly include the VSR program in a discussion of initiatives that have received broad-based support. In addition, since we and our partners attended and spoke at two of the February hearings, our VSR proposal should be included in the summary of comments section in the draft Plan.

As discussed in our previous letter, the program would be modeled after the existing successful program at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. A detailed implementation plan was attached to the letter. The VSR program aligns with investment plan objectives to reduce GHG emissions from transportation, and would achieve reductions within the three-year plan horizon. The program would have significant air quality and public health co-benefits by reducing particulates, air toxics, and smog-forming pollutants. Additional benefits include economic benefits from furthering progress of coastal air districts towards meeting air quality standards, and enhanced protection for endangered whale species.

I urge you to include the VSR program in your final Investment Plan.

Sincerely,



Louis D. Van Mullem, Jr., Air Pollution Control Officer
Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District

Attachment