



May 3, 2021

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez
California State Senate
State Capitol Building, Room 2068
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 342 (Gonzalez) South Coast Air Quality Management District: board membership. Notice to Oppose Unless Amended (As amended 4/22/2021)

Dear Senator Gonzalez:

On behalf of the Los Angeles County Division of the League of California Cities® (Division), representing 86 cities in the county, I write to express an Oppose Unless Amended position on your SB 342 which would add two additional voting members to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules, and the Speaker of the Assembly.

Current law already provides the Governor, Senate Committee on Rules, and the Speaker of the Assembly appointments on the SCAQMD governing board without restrictions on the Senate and Assembly appointments. The representation that SB 342 seeks to make can already be accomplished through this current appointment structure. As currently drafted, SB 342 would give the Legislature too many political appointments on a regional board that is meant to represent local interests of a four-county region.

Instead, we think that SB 342 would better serve the constituencies in smaller, less-represented, and environmentally compromised communities by adding two additional seats for Los Angeles County cities through the Los Angeles County City Selection Committee, which conducts public meetings in compliance with the Brown Act and remains accountable to voters. With a population of over 10 million people, adding more representation for Los Angeles County provides more proportionality to cities from the communities SB 342 seeks to represent.

The Division supports equity, good governance, and the highest ethical standards for all public officials. There is no evidence that the SCAQMD processes prohibit any of these values to warrant legislative intervention. Ultimately, our Democratic system is designed to allow constituencies to guide public policy through increased public engagement and the election process.

For these reasons, we respectfully oppose SB 347 unless amended. If you have any questions, please contact Kristine Guerrero at kguerrero@cacities.org.

Sincerely,

Blanca Pacheco
President
Los Angeles County Division
League of California Cities

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