

To: APCD Hearing Board
From: Arlene Versaw
October 11, 2023

Re: Nipomo Mesa Air Pollution Never-Ending Saga

Dear Hearing Board members:

I write this letter with a heavy heart. For 13 years now, I've dedicated hundreds of hours of my life in the quest for clean, safe, unpolluted air for residents of the Nipomo Mesa and Oceano. I have done so because I've always believed that public agencies are committed to the public good. That despite the maneuvering, the obstruction, the legal challenges and the slight-of-hand of those responsible for creating a public health hazard, justice would prevail.

I now realize that I have likely been naive. That taking the easy way instead of the right way is the preferred road taken. The right way? Remove the pollution source. The easy way? Keep changing the way you measure pollution, keep redefining the goal, keep lowering the bar, keep preventing further lawsuits.

My only hope is that the Hearing Board is the exception and that it ensures that public health gets the priority *above all others* that it deserves. Demand that any decisions made, that any actions taken protect the public from a known and well-documented serious health hazard.

Demonstrate that there is still a reason to have faith that someone actually cares about public health.

Thank you.