

October 10, 2022

San Luis Obispo County
Air Pollution Control District
Hearing Board and
Air Pollution Control Officer

Dear APCO Willey and Hearing Board Members,

I am writing as one who has been involved in the air pollution issue on the Nipomo Mesa and in Oceano for a dozen years. Think about that. Twelve years of watching the wheels of bureaucracy spin in pursuit of a resolution to a health problem that is simple to resolve were it not for political ramifications. Twelve years of hope born in Rule 1001, the Stipulated Order of Abatement and Coastal Commission decisions and smashed in the miasma of lawsuits, broken promises, lack of political courage and sister agency power struggles.

Meanwhile, real people are developing lung issues, have to stay in their homes on windy days, and live under a cloud of despondency that the government agencies who are sworn to protect them dither, try to “get along,” succumb to political pressure and threatened judicial action.

Enough. No more. No further tinkering with the Stipulated Order of Abatement descriptions, terms, modeling, etc. No extensions, reductions in emissivity debates. The SOA is a legal signed document, agreed to by the parties. The clock on the SOA is ticking. State Parks should take whatever steps are necessary to meet the terms of the SOA by the existing deadline, or off-roading should be halted on the dunes. Period.

Hold firm. “Just say no.”

Thank you,
Arlene Versaw
Co-Founder, Concerned Citizens for Clean Air