



Agenda Item # \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Tell and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager

**FROM:** Lindy Coe-Juell, Assistant to the City Manager

**DATE:** March 7, 2007

**SUBJECT:** Authorize the Mayor to Sign a Letter on Behalf of the City Council Endorsing AB391 (to add one Los Angeles County city representative to the South Coast Air Quality Management District Board)

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council authorize the Mayor to sign a letter on behalf of the City Council endorsing AB 391, which would add one Los Angeles County city representative to the South Coast Air Quality Management (SCAQMD) District Board.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

There are no fiscal implications associated with the recommended action.

### **BACKGROUND:**

The SCAQMD is the air pollution control agency for all of Orange County and the urban portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties. Its decisions, policies and regulations have significant impact on local governments, businesses and individuals living in the South Bay. The SCAQMD Board is made up of 12 people with just one representative for the City of Los Angeles and 24 smaller cities including the coastal cities.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The SCAQMD Board membership is based on legislation which was passed almost 20 years ago and reflects population, urban development and major sources of air quality concern at that time. Although the AQMD is to be credited for the contributions it has made to the improvement in the air quality that we experience today, the 1.5 million residents of the 24 western sector cities in Los Angeles County do not have direct representation on the Board under its current structure.

AB 391, authored by Assemblyman Ted Lieu, builds on AB 2015 from the 2006 Legislative Session, and it proposes to modify the composition of the SCAQMD by adding one city government representative from Los Angeles County. If successful, AB 391 would give the 24 smaller cities in the Los Angeles western sector an opportunity for direct representation on the Board.

**Table 1:** The AQMD Board membership is determined by state statute as follows:

3 State Appointees	1 appointed by the Governor 1 appointed by the Senate Rules Committee 1 appointed by the Assembly Speaker	
4 County Government Members	1 – Orange County 1 – Riverside County 1 – San Bernardino 1 – Los Angeles County	County Boards of Supervisors select from among their members.
5 City Government Members	1 – Orange County 1 – Riverside County 1 – San Bernardino County 1 – Los Angeles County Eastern Sector (representing 61 cities, including Calabasas & Malibu) 1 – Los Angeles County Western Sector (representing City of Los Angeles and 24 smaller cities)	Selected by City Selection Committees
12 Members	Current Total	
AB 391 would add 1 City Government Members	1 – Los Angeles County	
13 Members	Total after AB 391 passage	

Agencies in this western sector, including the South Bay Cities Council of Governments (SBCCOG), believe this direct representation is important because businesses in western Los Angeles County cities experience significant air quality related financial impacts. For example, according the SBCCOG, between July 2004 and June 2006, businesses in western Los Angeles County cities were penalized nearly \$10 million, 10 times that of any other region in District’s jurisdiction. Air quality related health impacts are also of great concern to the people who live and work in the western Los Angeles County cities. For these reasons, the western Los Angeles cities would like to have a direct seat on the SCAQMD Board.

Attachment: Letter of Support for AB 391



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March 8, 2007

The Honorable Ted Lieu  
California State Assembly  
P.O. Box 942849  
Sacramento, CA 94249-0001

Dear Assembly Member Lieu:

The City of Manhattan Beach has adopted a support position on AB 391, your legislation to expand the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Board of Directors.

As you may know, in its history the District Board of Directors has changed or altered membership six times. Of the multi-county air quality management districts in California, it is one of the smallest in board membership, but serves the largest population (16 million). Based on California Air Resources data, businesses in the Western Los Angeles County cities are shouldering a significant financial impact. Between July 2004 and June 2006, businesses in Western Los Angeles County cities were penalized nearly \$10 million (without the BP Arco Penalty), 10x's that of any other region in the District's jurisdiction. The majority of the businesses identified as the top 100 polluters, VOC, NOx and PM10, are in the Western Los Angeles County cities (excluding the City of Los Angeles).

We are impacted but do not have a voice at the table. AB 391 will provide that the smaller cities in the Western Sector of Los Angeles County gain that voice on this important government agency.

Again, thank you for your leadership on this issue and we look forward to working with you on this and other important issues of mutual concern.

Sincerely,

Mayor Nicholas W. Tell, Jr.  
City of Manhattan Beach