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San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers

January 13, 2010

Lisa Jackson, Administrator
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Ariel Rios Building
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Mail Code: 1101A
Washington, D.C. 20460

**Re: Petition by Natural Resources Defenses Council to Delay
Permits by the South Coast Air Quality Management District**

The San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers, a regional consortium of chambers representing more than half of the Valley's cities, urge you to deny the Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC, et. al., Petition to Require California to Amend its SIP Before Issuing Permits, dated December 10, 2009) last-ditch effort to block implementation of recently enacted state legislation (SB 827).

If granted, the NRDC petition would block issuance of some 1,200 South Coast Air Quality Management District permits for various small to mid-cap local businesses. This could delay and/or halt up to \$10 billion of Southern California new project investments. With unemployment hovering above 12.0% in California and 13.8% within two of the SCAQMD four county areas, the continued loss of jobs would further devastate the region.

Denying the NRDC Petition will benefit the environment in allowing the upgrades of older higher-emitting equipment with that of cleaner energy efficient modern pollution control technologies to proceed. Affected businesses include essential public services, such as hospitals, fire and police stations, sewage and drinking water treatment plants, as well as schools, food processors, gas stations and other vital local businesses.

The San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers respectfully request that you deny NRDC's December 10, 2009 petition.

Luis Cetina, Chair
San Gabriel Valley Legislative Coalition of Chambers

*c/o Irwindale Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 2307 - 16102 Arrow Highway, Irwindale CA 91706*