April 8, 2013

Dave Warner
Director of Permit Services
San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District

Re: Support for GreenAction’s Request for Bilingual Hearing and Translation of Key Documents into Spanish

Dear Mr. Warner,

Sierra Club writes to support GreenAction’s request for the district to translate the permitting documents for the Hydrogen Energy Facility into Spanish and to hold an additional public hearing for the Spanish-speaking community. Community members have been denied a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in the decision to allow construction of a major new source of air pollution in their backyard.

The District’s Environmental Justice Mission is to provide for the “fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, gender, national origin, or income.” To implement this mission, one of the district’s goals is to “[p]rovide accessible venues for Valley residents to receive education and information about...current District air quality actions while facilitating the active and meaningful participation of individuals and communities in the decision-making process...” The district also claims that it “provides outreach materials...in multiple languages,” “will work to provide easy to understand summaries of plans and reports of interest in multiple languages,” and “provides, as requested, real-time interpretation services for high-profile and EJ-focused forums or meetings.”

Until the district translates the permitting materials and holds a bilingual public hearing, the Spanish speakers in the communities that will be significantly impacted by a major new source of air pollution will not be afforded fair and meaningful involvement. Sierra Club urges the District to comply with its Environmental Justice Strategy, as well as all applicable state and federal laws.
Sincerely,

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AMENDED APPLICATION FOR CERTIFICATION
FOR THE HYDROGEN ENERGY
CALIFORNIA PROJECT

Docket No. 08-AFC-08A
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(Revised 3/4/13)

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After docketing, the Docket Unit will provide a copy to the persons listed below. Do not send copies of documents to these persons unless specifically directed to do so.

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Eileen Allen
Commissioners’ Technical Adviser for Facility Siting
DECLARATION OF SERVICE

I, Andrea Sanchez, declare that on April 8, 2013, I served and filed copies of the attached Air District Letter in Support of HECA Spanish Hearing, dated April 8, 2013. This document is accompanied by the most recent Proof of Service, which I copied from the web page for this project at: http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/hydrogen_energy/.

The document has been sent to the other persons on the Service List above in the following manner:

(Check one)

For service to all other parties and filing with the Docket Unit at the Energy Commission:

x I e-mailed the document to all e-mail addresses on the Service List above and personally delivered it or deposited it in the US mail with first class postage to those persons noted above as “hard copy required”; OR

_____ Instead of e-mailing the document, I personally delivered it or deposited it in the US mail with first class postage to all of the persons on the Service List for whom a mailing address is given.

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct, and that I am over the age of 18 years.

Dated: April 8, 2013 /s/ Andrea Sanchez