



CITY OF BANNING STAFF REPORT

TO: CITY COUNCIL

FROM: Robert Fisher, Acting City Manager

PREPARED BY: Art Vela, Public Works Director

MEETING DATE: May 13, 2025

SUBJECT: Consideration of Resolution 2025-61, Opposing South Coast Air Quality Management District's Proposed Amended Rules 1111 and 1121

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt Resolution 2025-61.

BACKGROUND:

South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD) has introduced Proposed Amended Rules (PAR) 1111 and 1121, aiming to reduce NOx emissions from natural gas-fired furnaces and residential-type water heaters. These amendments are designed to transition towards zero-emission appliances in both new and existing residential buildings, aligning with the objectives outlined in the 2022 Air Quality Management Plan (AQMP).

The following summary of the key advantages and disadvantages were identified by the Western Riverside Council of Government's (WRCOG) Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee:

Advantages of PAR 1111 and 1121:

- **Environmental and Health Benefits:** Implementing these rules is projected to reduce NOx emissions by approximately nine tons per day, contributing significantly to improved air quality in the region. This reduction is expected to prevent around 4,000 premature deaths, 16,000 new asthma cases, and 4,000 emergency room visits annually.
- **Alignment with AQMP Goals:** The amendments support the 2022 AQMP's target of a 67% reduction in NOx emissions by the year 2037, facilitating compliance with federal air quality standards.
- **Incentive Programs:** AQMD has developed the "Go Zero" rebate program, allocating \$21M to assist residents and small businesses in transitioning to zero-emission appliances, thereby offsetting some of the associated costs.

Challenges and Concerns of PAR 1111 and 1121:

- **Economic Impact:** Stakeholders have expressed concerns that the financial burden of replacing existing appliances with zero-emission units could disproportionately affect low-income households and small businesses. The costs associated with purchasing new appliances, potential electrical panel upgrades, and installation may be prohibitive for many.
- **Technological Feasibility:** Industry experts have highlighted potential challenges regarding the availability and maturity of zero-emission appliances suitable for retrofitting older buildings. There are concerns about whether current technologies can meet the diverse needs of consumers without causing project delays and increased costs.
- **Implementation Timeline:** The proposed timeline for compliance has been criticized as aggressive,

potentially leading to supply chain issues and inflated prices. Stakeholders have suggested that a more extended timeline would allow for a smoother transition and better market adaptation.

- Opposition from Local Governments: Several local governments and councils of governments have formally opposed the proposed amendments, highlighting concerns about high implementation costs and minimal air quality benefits.

WRCOG's Advocacy Ad Hoc Committee recommended to WRCOG that its Executive Committee oppose PAR 1111 and 1121, in their current form. On March 3, 2025, WRCOG approved Resolution 01-25, "A Resolution of the Executive Committee of the Western Riverside Council of Governments Opposing the South Coast Air Quality Management Districts Proposed Amended Rules 1111 and 1121."

JUSTIFICATION:

The primary reasons for opposition include the significant economic burden on residents and small businesses, technological feasibility concerns, and the short implementation timeline.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES:

Do not adopt Resolution 2025-61 and provide staff with alternate direction.

BUDGETED?:

No

CONTRACT/AGREEMENT:

No

ATTACHMENTS:

1. [Resolution 2025-61 AQMD Rules 1111 and 1121.docx](#)