January 1, 2022

The Honorable Lena Gonzalez
1021 O. Street, 7220
Sacramento, CA 95814

The Honorable Sydney Kamlager
State Capital, Room 4062
Sacramento, CA 95814

SUBJECT: SB 342 (Kamlager, Gonzalez) As Amended **STRONG SUPPORT**

To the Honorable Lena Gonzalez and Honorable Sydney Kamlager:

The undersigned organizations write in strong support for SB 342 by Senators Lena Gonzalez and Sydney Kamlager, which will add two much-needed environmental justice representatives to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) Board. Collectively, our

memberships include tens of thousands of concerned residents across California from San Diego to Humboldt. We are pleased to join our environmental justice allies, in particular Communities for a Better Environment, in supporting SB 342.

The area governed by the SCAQMD continues to have some of the worst air quality in the country. The South Basin is home to 6 refineries, the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, hundreds of active oil and gas extraction sites and multiple freeways. Those communities most impacted by poor air quality in the South Coast basin tend to be communities of color and those that are economically disadvantaged. This means that SCAQMD Board rulings have a very direct impact on ensuring, or denying, environmental justice for long-suffering communities.

The current SCAQMD Board is made up of 13 members, 10 of whom are appointed by local governments for 4-year terms. Unfortunately, the makeup of the SCAQMD Board has not fully and fairly reflected the voices of disadvantaged communities, who often find it difficult to participate in Board hearings for a multitude of reasons. We strongly believe that the addition of two new representatives who must reside in and work directly with communities in the South Coast basin that are disproportionately burdened by high levels of pollution will better achieve environmental justice.

Respectfully,

Sherry Lear, Organizer
350 South Bay Los Angeles

Anita Ghazarian, Environmental Lead
Indivisible Alta Pasadena

Dave Shukla, Operations
Long Beach Alliance for Clean Energy

Jennifer Tanner, Leader
Indivisible California Green Team

Alan Weiner, chapter lead
350 Conejo / San Fernando Valley

Andrea León-Grossmann
Azul

Doug Bender, Steering Committee
Indivisible South Bay LA

Rose Ann Witt, Co-Founder
Conejo Climate Coalition

Michael Rochmes, Steering Committee
350 Southland Legislative Alliance

Cheryl Auger, President
Ban SUP (Single Use Plastics)

Jan Dietrick, Policy Team Leader
350 Ventura County Climate Hub

Dan Chandler, Steering Committee
350 Humboldt

Sally Hayati, Director
Ban Toxi MHF

Mary Kay Benson
350 Butte County

Esperanza Vielma, Executive Director
Environmental Justice Coalition for Water

Sari Fordham
350 Riverside

Jane Affonso
Peace and Justice Committee
South Coast Interfaith Council

Elizabeth Chopp
Chair, Legislative Team
San Diego 350

Steven Goldsmith, President
Torrance Refinery Action Alliance

Tina Gallier
350 Sacramento

Kristin Kusanovich, Director
tUrn Climate Crisis Awareness & Action

Diana Mielke, Round Table
Indivisible Beach Cities

Ben Keller, Co-Chair
350 Bay Area Action Legislative Committee

Marty Perlmutter, Steering Committee
Indivisible Media City Burbank

Janet Cox, Legislation Director
350 Silicon Valley

Jack Eidt, Co-Founder
SoCal 350 Climate Action