



South Coast Air Quality Management District

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June 7, 2012

Dear Orange County Register Editor,

In his June 4 Reader Rebuttal, James Enstrom makes several statements about the health effects of air pollution that are simply untrue. According to Enstrom, air pollution does not cause any premature deaths in Southern California and our air – among the dirtiest in the nation – doesn't cause any significant health problems whatsoever.

An overwhelming body of peer-reviewed scientific research, some of it conducted right here in the Southland, proves his statements false. In one landmark study of more than 1,700 children in 12 Southland communities, air pollution stunted the growth of children's lungs, potentially foreshadowing compromised lung function as adults. (Full article at <http://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/NEJMoa040610>)

Studies specific to residents of Southern California have found significant associations of premature deaths and levels of particulate air pollution. (Abstract at http://journals.lww.com/epidem/Fulltext/2004/07000/A_Cohort_Study_of_Air_Pollution_and_Mortality_in.107.aspx)

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee, composed of scientists with impeccable credentials and chaired by Dr. Jonathan M. Samet, a department chair at USC, has found that today's health standard for particulate matter is not stringent enough to protect public health. (Report at [http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/264cb1227d55e02c85257402007446a4/CCF9F4C0500C500F8525779D0073C593/\\$File/EPA-CASAC-10-015-unsigned.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/sab/sabproduct.nsf/264cb1227d55e02c85257402007446a4/CCF9F4C0500C500F8525779D0073C593/$File/EPA-CASAC-10-015-unsigned.pdf))

Relying on the best available science, AQMD works with community and business leaders to achieve health-based clean air standards required by federal law while also supporting economic growth.

To get a sense of the human impact of air pollution, I strongly urge your readers to view AQMD's signature film at www.TheRightToBreathe.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barry R. Wallerstein", written in a cursive style.

Barry R. Wallerstein, D.Env.
AQMD Executive Officer

Health and Air Quality Studies

June 2012

Many studies have reported on the relation between particulate air pollution and public health, including mortality. Listed below are several recent publications.

1. Michael J. Lipsett, M.D., Bart Ostro, Ph.D.; et al., "*Extended Analysis of Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Disease in the California Teachers Study Cohort*" (October 2011) California Air Resources Board <http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/apr/past/06-336.pdf>
2. Michael Jerrett, Ph.D et al., "*Spatiotemporal Analysis of Air Pollution and Mortality in California Based on the American Cancer Society Cohort: Final Report*" (2011) California Air Resources Board <http://www.arb.ca.gov/research/apr/past/06-332.pdf>
3. Michael J. Lipsett M.D., et al., "*Long-Term Exposure to Air Pollution and Cardiorespiratory Disease in the California Teachers Study Cohort*" (June 2011) Am J Respir Crit Care Med 184: 828–835 <http://ajrccm.atsjournals.org/content/184/7/828.abstract>
4. Robert D. Brook, M.D., Sanjay Rajagopalan, M.D., et al., "*Particulate Matter Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Disease. An Update to the Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association*" (May 2010) American Heart Association Council on Epidemiology and Prevention, Council on the Kidney in Cardiovascular Disease, and Council on Nutrition, Physical Activity and Metabolism. Circulation 121:2331-2378 <http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/121/21/2331.abstract>
5. Daniel Krewski, Michael Jarrett, et al., "*Extended Follow-Up and Spatial Analysis of the American Cancer Society Study Linking Particulate Air Pollution and Mortality*" (May 2009) Health Effects Institute Research Report 140 <http://pubs.healtheffects.org/view.php?id=315>

In addition, a Press Release for future publication:

IARC: DIESEL ENGINE EXHAUST CARCINOGENIC, Press release 213, June 12, 2012. International Agency for Research on Cancer. http://press.iarc.fr/pr213_E.pdf

(Note: The summary of the evaluation will appear in *The Lancet Oncology* as an online publication ahead of print on June 15, 2012)