

October 14, 2025
San Diego Air Pollution Control District
Attention: Paula Forbis, APCO
10124 Old Grove Road
San Diego, CA 92131

Dear Mrs. Forbis,

Casa Familiar wishes to express its disappointment regarding the recent decision to remove the hydrogen sulfide monitor from the San Ysidro community. We strongly urge the SDAPCD not to relocate the monitor until the community has had a full opportunity to provide input and until solutions to the strategies outlined in the International Border Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) are identified. San Ysidro has spent years advocating for improved air quality, and when CARB and SDAPCD finally began funding and implementing actions to gather air quality data and advance the CERP, removing the hydrogen sulfide monitor from the community contradicts our fundamental environmental justice principles.

In addition to this setback, the community of San Ysidro has already suffered a significant loss of \$14 million in EPA funding that was intended to support environmental justice efforts. The removal of the hydrogen sulfide monitor would represent yet another blow to a community that has long been underserved and disproportionately burdened by environmental hazards. This decision undermines years of advocacy and progress and further erodes trust in the agencies tasked with protecting public health and environmental quality.

While CERP Cross-Border Strategies 1 and 2 prioritize SDAPCD actions concerning odors from sewage flows in the Tijuana River Valley and collaboration with researchers, the CERP clearly recognizes that West San Ysidro residents—adjacent to the river valley—are a priority community. (See page 15 of the CERP.) Strategy 2 also identifies six sites for monitoring. The decision to remove one site without notifying the San Ysidro community and the International Border Community Steering Committee (CSC), and not replacing it is unfair to CSC members. Some residents involved in the CSC have been advocating for better air quality for over a decade.

We recognize the urgency of gathering more data; however, as one of your board members mentioned during the October 9, 2025, Governing Board meeting, “this community is also being impacted by a lot of other issues...having the largest border crossing in the world,” and San Ysidro suffers from poor air quality every day, all day. It is unjust for SDAPCD to pit one community’s priorities against another without thorough discussion of potential solutions and full

transparency with those community members most engaged in the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program.

Casa Familiar has dedicated many years to advocating and educating the community about air quality issues, working closely with agencies responsible for finding solutions. We have also partnered with our *"promotoras"*, some of whom are CSC members, who have recently helped promote your AIRE air purifier program within their neighborhoods. How can Casa Familiar, as a partner of SDAPCD, explain to the community why this decision was made without prior discussion or notification? Once again, we express our disappointment with the decision to remove the hydrogen sulfide monitor and strongly urge SDAPCD to halt its removal until comprehensive community input and solutions are considered.

Respectfully,



Lisa Cuestas
CEO, Casa Familiar

Cc: San Diego Air Pollution Control District Board
Deldi Reyes, Division Chief, CARB Office of Community Air Protection