 Commissioners – Thank you for providing me the opportunity to testify today. My name is Gabriela Navarro. I am affiliated with the YMCA of Los Angeles and partnering with NALEO Education Fund.

I have lived in Boyle Heights my whole life. Boyle Heights is located in the city of Los Angeles, east of the LA river. Some of Boyle Heights historical landmarks include Mariachi Plaza, on the corner of First Street and Boyle Avenue, El Mercadito, and Evergreen Cemetery. My parents immigrated to the United States and made the choice to reside in the neighborhood of Boyle Heights due to it being accessible to my Father's occupation.

Boyle Heights is surrounded by the 5, 10, 101, and the 60 freeway. Growing up it felt normal to live around freeways unknowing of the negative health risks. Being surrounded by multiple freeway interstates, our community has high rates of pollution and poorer air quality. From the USC my neighborhood database, in the year 2014, the average annual concentration of fine particulate matter (PM 2.5) in the air, measured to 12.69 micrograms per cubic meter of air. Over three years, in 2017 the annual concentration increased by .20 micrograms per cubic meter of air. On the contrary, Los Angeles County average annual concentration of fine particulate matter decreased by .40 micrograms per cubic meter of air in 2017 an average of 11.48. My community is described as a toxic hotspot. The unsafe environmental conditions negatively impact the health of citizens of my community.

I would like the commission to maintain our community together. In our community we speak the same language, Spanish. My community is colorful, multi-generational and filled with youth development. Like other community members we would attend local events located at parks and at the Plaza. I believe it is important that our community is protected from future increases of pollution and what threatens the right of our community to have clean air, water, land, and food.

Thank You