



TIM GOODRICH  
COUNCILMAN

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# CITY OF TORRANCE

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March 3, 2016

William Burke, Chairman  
South Coast Air Quality Management District  
21865 Copley Drive  
Diamond Bar, CA 91765-4178

Dear SCAQMD Governing Board:

**RE: Barry Wallerstein, Executive Director**

Recently, I learned of your intent to discuss the potential firing of the longstanding Executive Director, Barry Wallerstein, during closed session at the March 4, 2016 SCAQMD Board meeting. As a councilmember of the City of Torrance, I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the potential firing of Mr. Wallerstein.

The City of Torrance often interacts with your agency to ensure that we have clean air to breathe. In the aftermath of the February 18, 2015 explosion at the ExxonMobil refinery located in our city, our interactions have increased. SCAQMD has been especially helpful by agreeing to study safer alternatives to Modified Hydrofluoric Acid and will be helpful by providing oversight as the refinery comes back online over the next several months.

However, I am concerned that the firing of AQMD's Director is a move in the wrong direction. I fear that such a major disruption at the AQMD could have negative impacts on the work on which we are currently cooperating. With these major issues ongoing and the health of the nearly 150,000 residents of the City of Torrance at stake, continuity at your agency is critical.

Again, I'd like to thank the AQMD for their role in managing Torrance's recent issues and I urge you to keep Barry Wallerstein as your CEO. The assistance the AQMD has provided under his direction has been much appreciated and I value his leadership.

Sincerely,

Tim Goodrich  
Councilmember, City of Torrance