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of the Diocese of Stockton**

Help for Today...Hope for Tomorrow

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San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District
1990 E Gettysburg Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726
(email: AB617@valleyair.org)

Re: Second-Round Community Nominations – Port of Stockton and surrounding neighborhoods

Dear Valley Air District Representative,

On behalf of Catholic Charities' Environmental Justice (EJ) Program, I am writing to express our strong nomination for the Port of Stockton and surrounding neighborhoods in the second round of the AB617 Community Air Protection Program. The EJ Program is seeking both the deployment of a community air monitoring campaign and the development of a community emissions reduction program for the neighborhoods.

The Port of Stockton is located southwest of downtown Stockton. It is located near two major freeways, two transcontinental railroads, an international waterway, and a regional airport. The Port census tract has a population of 6,692 with a pollution burden percentile of 100%, according to CalEnviroScreen 3.0. The PM 2.5 and diesel amount to 84% and 74% and has a higher than 96% percentile for asthma and cardiovascular rates. The neighborhoods have a high percentile burden for linguistic isolation, education, poverty, and housing burden. The Port of Stockton has always been a major source of commerce and thus, has several major sources of pollution that are both mobile and stationary, such as a biomass incinerator and transportation emissions from diesel engines.

The Catholic Charities Environmental Justice Program values the collaborative partnerships with the California Air Resources Board, San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and most importantly community residents to improve the quality of life in Stockton. Our nomination for the Port of Stockton and surrounding neighborhoods in the second round of the AB 617 Community Air Protection Program seeks to improve environmental health conditions within disadvantaged communities.

Sincerely,

Elvira Ramirez, Executive Director
Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Stockton
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209-444-5938



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