



**For Immediate Release**

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**Governor's Withdrawal of Air Appointee Appropriate**

SACRAMENTO—Governor Newsom has withdrawn his recent appointment to a key seat on the board of the South Coast Air Quality Management District, which regulates polluters in Southern California.

Shortly after the governor nominated Nikki Noushkam, environmental groups raised concerns about her appointment with the Newsom administration and state legislature.

This summer, residents of the South Coast air basin have experienced two months of dirty ozone days. The South Coast air basin, which includes portions of Los Angeles, Riverside and San Bernardino counties and all of Orange County, is among the top three polluted in the nation, consistently failing to meet federal ambient air quality standards.

**In response, Sierra Club California Director Kathryn Phillips released the following statement:**

"The governor did the right thing to reconsider his earlier decision about the South Coast AQMD position. That air basin needs more strong, informed voices for public health on the AQMD board. The oil industry has actively been trying to dominate that board in recent years.

"Now the governor has a chance to appoint someone with the needed expertise and background to make sure the board moves closer to its mission of delivering clean air."

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*Sierra Club California is the legislative and regulatory advocacy arm of the 13 Sierra Club chapters in California, representing more than 500,000 members and supporters statewide.*