

Ms. Flores Aguilar, Ms. Korenstein, Ms. LaMotte - Reduction in Air Pollution Health Risk at Schools (Noticed January 8, 2008) **ADOPTED AS AMENDED**

Whereas, The Los Angeles Unified School District is committed to providing a safe school environment that promotes the health and well-being of children and, as the second largest school district in the nation, is also in a key position to play a leadership role in protecting children from potentially harmful situations;

Whereas, Current air quality regulations are primarily directed toward compliance with *ambient air quality standards* and compliance with these standards will result in improved air quality on a *regional scale*;

Whereas, Achieving regional air quality standards does not adequately protect the thousands of Los Angeles residents that are living in close proximity to major stationary and mobile sources of air pollution (such as freeways, rail yards, refineries, etc.), and research indicates living in such areas will result in increased rates of cardiovascular disease, birth defects, asthma, decreased lung function and other respiratory diseases;

Whereas, Recent studies have documented decreased lung capacity and other adverse health effects in children living within 1500 meters of major sources of pollution;

Whereas, The most effective way to reduce public exposure to air pollution is to control emissions at the source, and in the absence of source controls, the only option is to reduce exposure through the implementation of Best Management Practices (BMP) and Best Available Control Technologies (BACT) such as improved filtration of indoor air, the establishment of buffer zones between the pollution source and nearby residents, and/or minimizing amount of time spent outdoors;

Whereas, For schools located in close proximity to major sources of air pollution, only a partial reduction in the health risk to school occupants can be achieved through implementation of BMP and BACT;

Whereas, In order to reduce the health risk of school occupants and residents within these local environments, a major change in the current regulatory approach will be required; and

Whereas, Taking action to reduce the exposure (and potential health risks) of students to air pollution can foster an improved environment for children's learning; now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Governing Board of the Los Angeles Unified School District directs the Superintendent to establish, within 30 days, a priority list of Los Angeles Unified School District schools that may potentially pose a health risk due to the effects of nearby sources of air pollution;

Resolved further, That the Board directs the Superintendent or his designee to develop, within 60 days, a plan using BMP and BACT to reduce onsite exposure of students and staff to air pollution within schools identified on the priority list as being at high risk of the effects of air pollution, and within 90 days, a list of potential public and private funding sources for school site modifications that may be needed;

Resolved further, That the Board recognizes that onsite control measures can only partially reduce exposure to air pollutants, and directs the Superintendent to request the California Air Resources Board and the US Environmental Protection Agency to review and supplement current regulations to effectively address air pollution risks to school occupants and other members of the school community living in close proximity to major sources of air pollution;

Resolved further, That the Board prohibits the placement of new schools within 500 feet of a freeway or other major mobile and stationary source, unless the Office of Environmental Health and Safety (OEHS) determines that the risks are less than significant or if the risks are found to be significant and unavoidable, the Board makes the necessary finding to adopt a statement of overriding consideration;

Resolved further, That the Board requires that all permitted and major unpermitted (i.e. rail yards, freeways, etc.) sources of emissions within one quarter mile continue to be evaluated, and in addition, emission sources within one-half mile of proposed school sites be identified and evaluated if the emission source is considered potentially significant;

Resolved further, That in order to ensure the health and safety of future school occupants, the Board requires the completion of an Air Quality Health Risk Assessment, pursuant to guidelines established by OEHS and the State Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, for all new school projects, including Charter schools as legally permitted, and that the results be disclosed to the Board in the CEQA document or equivalent documentation prior to project approval; and be it finally

Resolved, That the Board directs the OEHS to work in collaboration with the South Coast Air Quality Management District and any other appropriate agencies to monitor and comment on any proposed new sources of air emissions that may exacerbate exposure to air pollution at District schools. In the event a proposed facility or other source of air pollution is expected to pose a significant health risk, OEHS, in consultation with the Office of General Counsel, shall take appropriate and reasonable action to ensure the safety of school occupants.