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December 14, 2016

**TO:** South Coast Air Quality Management District Hearing Board

**FROM:** Cyrus Rangan MD FAAP FACMT  
Director, Toxicology and Environmental Assessment  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health

**RE: STATEMENT REGARDING HEXAVALENT CHROMIUM IN THE CITY OF PARAMOUNT**

The recent findings of the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) regarding elevated hexavalent chromium in the City of Paramount represents a significant health risk to people living, working, or schooling in the City. Hexavalent chromium is a known human carcinogen. Two facilities in the City have been found to be contributing to these airborne elevations. Health officials, regulators, and policymakers have a collective responsibility to act swiftly and strongly to bring these emissions down. The SCAQMD issued petitions for Orders of Abatement, and the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (LADPH) concurrently issued Public Health Directives to these 2 facilities, imploring upon them to eliminate the endangerment to the community. Both actions by SCAQMD and LADPH are critical to address this very serious health threat to the citizens that we jointly serve.

Paramount is home to over 50,000 residents. These residents live near multiple heavy industries with emissions consisting of metals, hydrocarbons, particle pollution, and many others. Paramount is a prime example of a major environmental problem that exists in Los Angeles County: Heavy industry located in close proximity to residential communities. Although today's hearing is not intended to address this long-term issue of pollution in Paramount, it is important to know that today's issue of elevated chromium exists in this larger context. Communities like Paramount are not only burdened by the general state of poor regional air quality that we have in the Los Angeles basin, but they're also OVER-burdened by living so closely to multiple stationary

and mobile sources of pollution. Current pollution regulations are largely designed to address environmental impacts on the region as a whole. We need stricter focus on the local impact of pollution sources on neighboring communities. Regulation of industry should address not only what an industrial facility does, but also where an industrial facility is located, so that both the short-term and the long-term health of neighboring communities will be protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cyrus Rangan MD FAAP FACMT". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cyrus Rangan MD FAAP FACMT  
Director, Toxicology and Environmental Assessment  
Los Angeles County Department of Public Health