

YES on SB 696

**Save Jobs, Help Get Southern
California's Economy Moving**

QUESTIONS and ANSWERS ABOUT SB 696

Q: What is SB 696?

A: It is critically needed emergency legislation that will allow the issuance of required permits from the South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) for the construction of fire stations, police stations, hospital power generators, electricity generators and other projects that are essential public services. Without it, almost 1,100 of these projects will be on indefinite hold, with potentially over 2,000 existing permits in further jeopardy.

Q: Why can't these projects get permits now?

A: A lawsuit has blocked issuance of emissions credits for these essential projects from a special SCAQMD credit bank. Without the special bank, the small businesses, public agencies and others involved could be forced to spend up to \$4 billion for pollution credits – if they are available at all.

Q: Why do they need permits in the first place?

A: Southern California's strict air quality rules require that any business or facility adding new equipment must prove they have reduced through other activities the amount of air pollution the new equipment would emit. The SCAQMD kept a special bank of pollution reduction credits from district-monitored facilities that were then issued to these essential projects so they could move forward.

Q: So what will happen?

A: Almost 1,100 projects are on indefinite hold in the SCAQMD's four-county area and another 2,000 existing permits are potentially subject to cancellation. The situation is bad for the environment and especially troubling in these tough economic times.

Q: Why bad for the economy?

A: No permits mean lost jobs and delays in building needed projects like police stations, fire stations, hospitals, manufacturing plants and more. More than half the permits impact small businesses. Altogether, thousands of facilities will be impacted that employ hardworking men and women in Southern California.

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Q: Isn't this kind of get –tough policy good for the environment?

A: No, just the reverse. Many of these projects that can't get permits involve installation of more modern, cleaner equipment that will mean a tremendous net drop in harmful emissions. So the impact of this lawsuit could be slower environmental clean-up, a blow to cleaning up air pollution and even setting back efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Q: How does SB 696 impact all of this?

A: SB 696 is urgently needed to get Southern California's economy moving again. It re-establishes the SCAQMD's credit bank and allows access to its priority reserve to continue the district's strict permitting program that protects public health while allowing essential services and job-creating facilities to be built.

Q: Who's behind SB 696?

A: SB 696 is sponsored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District which feels it is critical to meeting their responsibility for improving air quality in the region. The measure is supported by a growing coalition of public officials, business, labor, law enforcement, education and water quality officials throughout Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino Counties.

Q: What can I do to help?

A: SB 696 is emergency legislation that requires a two-thirds vote in both the Assembly and the Senate. You should email or call your Assembly representative and Senator to let them know you support SB 696 to improve Southern California's environment and help get our economy moving again.