

NEWS

From the County of San Bernardino

Josie Gonzales Fifth District

<http://www.sbcounty.gov/gonzales>

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**JGFDS-PR-246 STATEMENT ON ARB RAILYARD COMMITMENTS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

SUPERVISOR GONZALES' STATEMENT ON THE AIR RESOURCE BOARD/BNSF DRAFT RAILYARD-SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS

SAN BERNARDINO – This evening the California Air Resources Board (ARB) is holding a public meeting to receive input on a draft of railyard-specific commitments that the state air board will request from the BNSF Railway.

After several meetings, which included much in-depth review of the draft, and consideration of the efforts put forth to protect the people whom I serve, I have concluded that I cannot support this document as written.

For far too long the residents living near the BNSF railyard here in the City of San Bernardino have been subjected to extreme levels of toxic particulate pollution, reported by ARB in 2005 to be the highest cancer risk in the state.

It is my position that we need to work toward a custom designed approach to address our extreme circumstance rather than the “one size fits all” approach ARB is proposing. We should be working together to implement much more aggressive measures as soon as possible to reduce this risk as quickly as possible.

As I look at ARB’s goal of reducing the cancer risk in these neighboring communities to 400 in a million by 2020, I can only say, “This is unhealthy and unacceptable.”

Despite my disagreement with the draft, I remain willing to work with ARB, BNSF, the City of San Bernardino, community groups, and others on this serious issue. My goal is to do more and to try harder to protect the community sooner, rather than later.

Supervisor Josie Gonzales represents San Bernardino County’s 5th District, in which the BNSF railyard sits. She also serves as the County’s representative on the South Coast Air Quality Management District’s Governing Board.

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