



**County Administrative Office**  
**Governmental & Legislative Affairs**

**Josh Candelaria**  
Governmental & Legislative  
Affairs Director

March 16, 2016

The Honorable Matt Rodriguez  
Secretary for Environmental Protection  
California Environmental Protection Agency  
1001 I Street  
P.O. Box 2815  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Dear Secretary Rodriguez:

On behalf of the County of San Bernardino, we are pleased to support the City of Riverside's proposal to be the new home for the California Air Resources Board's Motor Vehicle and Engine Emissions Testing and Research Facilities.

Riverside is an ideal location as CARB's due to its proximity to one of the premier research facilities related to energy, air quality and alternative fuels, i.e., U.C. Riverside's College of Engineering – Center for Environmental Research and Technology (CE-CERT), as well as a new medical school at UCR, and a number of colleges and universities, providing unlimited opportunities for educational and research synergies, not to mention attractive educational opportunities for the children of employees or for employee enrichment or advancement. CE-CERT played a key role in research being done by CARB on biodiesel emissions, while other programs include advanced research on atmospheric processes that lead to the creation of air pollution, in addition to numerous other cutting-edge research initiatives on vehicles, renewable energy and integration with the grid.

CE-CERT has extensive expertise in solar generation, as it produces most of its own energy on-site, and has infrastructure in place for electric vehicles, which would assist with the goal of the new facility being net-zero energy.

The Inland Empire has traditionally been underserved by state investment and the new research facility would be a key economic driver as the region continues to expand and grow its professional-level workforce.

The potential cost savings by selecting the Riverside option are numerous. The proposed site is on land already owned by UCR and designated in the campus Master Plan for future research-related development. The site is flat and utilities are located at various nearby facilities, thus helping to limit development costs. Utility costs, as well as the overall cost of

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living, are less in Riverside. The area is low-density and within a few minutes of major freeways and Metrolink, and is bicycle friendly.

Riverside has a wide variety of housing options for your full range of employees within a small geographic area, while providing an excellent quality of life in a diverse, vibrant and growing community. Riverside has numerous high-quality amenities nearby, and outstanding recreational opportunities, from theater and restaurants to a variety of outdoor recreation, both in town and nearby.

For these and numerous other reasons, the Riverside site would serve the state well for decades to come, while the state and its employees, from clerical staff to technicians, engineers, scientists and managers, would become an integral part of an Inland community that is already an excellent place to live, work and play, and will only get better with time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'James Ramos', with a large, stylized initial 'J'.

JAMES RAMOS  
Board of Supervisors Chairman  
Third District Supervisor  
County of San Bernardino