

As Prepared for Delivery
Comments of Ashley Tsai
Fellow
American Lung Association
On
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
California Advanced Clean Fleets Waiver
Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2023-0589
August 14, 2024

My name is Ashley Tsai, and I am an incoming 4th year student at the University of California, Riverside. I am also a current fellow with the American Lung Association.

I would like to urge EPA to approve the Clean Air Act waiver for the Advanced Clean Fleets rule.

According to the State of the Air Report by American Lung Association, Riverside County places 2nd for the worst ozone in the country, and 12th for fine particle pollution.

As a student, maintaining good health is one of the most important factors to my success. But through my three to almost four years in Riverside, I dealt with my fair share of respiratory issues.

Throughout my second year, I dealt with wheezing, difficulty breathing, constant shortness of breath, and many more respiratory challenges. These challenges only settled once I went back home to northern California. When talking to friends and other classmates, they have shared their own personal experiences with the air pollution in the area and how it has affected their personal lives and health.

Located near major truck routes, the campus of UCR is surrounded by a high concentration of air pollutants. Even within UCR's School of Medicine, the Center for Healthy Communities acknowledges that the Riverside community is disproportionately impacted by exposure to pollution and is rated as one of the top impacted communities throughout the state. The critical air challenges are mainly contributed by the diesel truck operations emitting high particulate matter.

Reducing traffic-related air pollution is crucial for public health. Reports suggest that adopting electric vehicles could significantly lower ozone forming emissions, which are known to cause respiratory and cardiovascular diseases, and other serious health issues.

This transition to zero-emission technologies is particularly important for students like me who live and study near busy roads and highways, as well as the communities of children, elderly, and residents living with Asthma or cardiovascular disease. Their health should be a pivotal

concern, as prolonged exposure to pollutants can have long-term detrimental effects on their well-being.

With the ACF regulation, zero-emission technologies will reduce ozone forming emissions, fine particles, toxic diesel exhaust and greenhouse gases hence improving the health and quality of life for all, particularly those who live in highly impacted areas like Riverside. Being able to dramatically improve the quality of life for those within the Inland Empire should be a strong priority. *I strongly urge the EPA to approve the Advanced Clean Fleets Rule as soon as possible.*

Thank you for your time