

November 8, 2019

Mary D. Nichols
Chair, California Air Resources Board
1001 I Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Via Email: California.Jobs@opr.ca.gov

Dear Chair Nichols,

I am joining with the residents of Inglewood and leading environmental advocates to urge the California Air Resources Board to continue to stand up for the Inglewood community and reject the Los Angeles Clippers' AB 987 application for their proposed basketball arena complex.

Inglewood residents and I are not alone in our stand against this proposal. The Natural Resources Defense Council, Climate Resolve, Public Counsel, and several California Assembly members have also publicly opposed the Clippers' AB 987 application in clear and strong terms.

I have spent decades advocating on behalf of environmental justice in California communities. A close examination of the facts in this case, and hearing from Inglewood residents whose voices are too often ignored, compels me to stand against this project.

The Clippers arena proposal is a too-common example of a community bearing the burden of development in our state without sharing in the benefits. This area of long-standing homes, businesses and apartments will be forced to absorb considerable damage in the form of crippling traffic, elevated pollution, economic displacement and reduced quality of life for an arena that many will not have the means to attend, and which offers the community virtually nothing in return.

When the Clippers sponsored AB 987 last year, they made specific promises to the State, the legislature, and the community to protect Inglewood residents and the environment in exchange for receiving the privilege of fast-tracked environmental review for their arena project. However, their proposal falls far short of meeting these requirements and does not merit your support.

This massive new arena complex would be built immediately next to a residential neighborhood in Inglewood and inflict significant, long-term environmental and health damage on the area, including increased air pollution, traffic congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, and other hazards, while not doing nearly enough to mitigate the damage.

Designed with virtually no community involvement or engagement, the project would become the third major venue in just one mile and bring an estimated 4 million new cars per year to an area without

adequate public transit or parking. As CARB's extensive research has conclusively shown, tailpipe emissions are linked directly to asthma and other ailments, especially among children and the elderly.

The project also falls far short of AB 987's high standards for greenhouse gas (GHG) mitigation, relying on unrealistic assumptions and baseless claims. I am especially concerned about the application's reliance on "market shift," a dubious theory that credits the Clippers with GHG savings by assuming that other venues in the region will go underused simply because an event is being held at the Clippers arena. Not only does "market shift" violate common sense and empirical data, it would set an alarming environmental precedent, opening the floodgates for other baseless claims of GHG reductions from future projects.

Last month, Gov. Newsom called for this project to fully meet the statutory criteria of AB 987 "both in letter and in spirit," and reaffirmed his commitment to "holding project sponsors to California's high standards for environment benefits and mitigation..." We make the same request today. We ask that you continue honoring your role as a guardian of California's environment and its communities, and deny this application.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Barbara Boxer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Barbara Boxer