

Letter to the Editor
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Are the political winds changing in the toxified neighborhoods surrounding Pacific Steel Casting?

Dunno, ... still stinks to me!

At today's Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) Board Meeting in San Francisco, approximately 20 irate Berkeley residents and their supporters took 3 minute turns at the podium in support of revising the corrupt December 2005 Settlement between PSC and the District – a deal struck without any community input at all. Concerned members at the meeting today included Greenaction, the West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs, cleanaircoalition.net, the Ecology Center and a new Berkeley-based Title V group.

What isn't surprising is that Jack Broadbent and his associates at PSC opposed the demands of our citizens to get this issue on the official agenda at the next Board Meeting, scheduled for April 5. Interested citizens can join us for Round 2 at this Board Meeting, at 939 Ellis Street, SF @ 9:45 AM. We need your voices!

Surprising was finding a letter from District One City Council Member Linda Maio at the meeting! In her letter, Maio presented the following concerns to BAAQMD, including if the Settlement actually increases the allowable emission rate at the foundry; what the District knows about Dioxin and other toxic chemicals in the manufacturing process; how Title V plays role moving forward in this struggle; and her wish for BAAQMD / PSC-related meetings to be held in Berkeley so residents can attend and give input. Good stuff. My guess is that you can read this mission changing letter on Maio's web site.

Maybe Maio smells the clean winds of change heading back down Gilman, a "green shift" that cleanaircoalition.net and many other groups kick-started long ago! Let's everyone keep a watchful eye and ear on Maio's rhetoric and see if this letter actually represents a sincere desire to recover our backyards - and sanity - as **WE** cleanup PSC.

November is just around the corner, Linda.

Willi Paul