Comments by the
California Asphalt Pavement Association
To the
San Francisco Bay Area Air District Board of Directors
Wednesday, June 4, 2025

Good afternoon members of the Board:

My name is Russell Snyder, Executive Director of the California Asphalt Pavement Association. CalAPA is a non-profit trade association, founded in 1953, that represents companies in the asphalt industry in California, including asphalt producers, liquid asphalt binder suppliers, paving contractors, consultants, equipment manufacturers and other companies that make up the industry. We have about 200 member companies that operate in every part of the state.

We are here to also raise the issue of the difficulties our members have faced over the years in getting permits processed in a timely manner, and even in some cases getting timely answers to questions about those permits.

Our association has been engaged with the Air District leadership and staff on this issue for many years. I call your attention to our April 5, 2018 letter to the Air District Leadership sounding the alarm on the negative consequences of this situation. This was followed up with meetings with the Air District leadership and staff to examine the causes of these delays, and promises that improvements would be made.

We have been proactive in helping air district staff understand our industry, including hosting a tour of an asphalt plant in Sunol in March 3, 2020. This is part of our mission to be open and transparent, and to demonstrate our commitment to meeting all environmental regulations in the communities in which we live and work.

Despite these efforts, our members have reported that the major issues around permitting delays have not been resolved. We followed up with letters on Dec. 21, 2023, and again in a letter on Nov. 1, 2024. Additional meetings have been held with Air District leadership on July 18, 2024, and Jan. 23, 2025. Again, we have been given assurances that these issues are being taken seriously, but so far we cannot report meaningful progress has been made. **This is seven years of engagement with the air district and little notable progress.**

It should be noted that our members work in other air districts in California, and have not encountered issues as acute as these. In one of our letters, we note a progressive and transparent system in place at the San Diego Air District that reports on line on the status of permits, and the amount of time it takes to process those permits. We encourage the BAAQMD to adopt such a program.

As noted by others, these delays hamper the ability of our industry to deliver the essential housing, infrastructure, safety, and other projects desperately needed by our communities to address our critical shortage of housing, and the affordability crisis that this situation has created.

We stand ready to provide additional information on this situation, and work with the air district to implement positive solutions. Thank you.