

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 17, 2023

Vanessa Delgado
Chair
South Coast Air Quality Management District

Dear Chair Delgado,

As Members of the Orange County congressional delegation, we write to you regarding the recent fire at the former Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) hangar in Tustin, California. We are deeply concerned by the impact the ash and debris from the fire could have on the surrounding communities based on the results of the South Coast Air Quality Management District's (AQMD) initial air quality test.

While we are appreciative of the quick response to run the test, South Coast AQMD's release notes that the test was done on samples "collected in public areas near the hangar." With the continued presence of Santa Ana winds, there is not only threat of additional fire, but also spread of the toxic debris across Orange County and beyond.

With this in mind, we ask that you consider providing us with a response as to the AQMD's plan and timeline to run additional tests across all areas of jurisdiction.

We also ask that you consider providing further clarification on the initial test, including whether other and surrounding areas of Orange County were tested and found to be positive for traces of asbestos. Additionally, we encourage South Coast AQMD work with neighboring cities and the County to disseminate information in a timely and transparent manner to ensure that the public is aware and able to take appropriate precautions wherever these debris may reach.

Thank you for your full and fair consideration of this matter, consistent with applicable agency guidelines, and we look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Young Kim
Member of Congress



Katie Porter
Member of Congress



Michelle Steel
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress