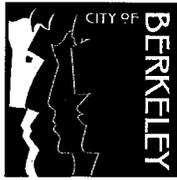




PETER MAASS
Mayor of Albany



TOM BATES
Mayor of Berkeley



GREG LYMAN
Mayor of El Cerrito



DIANNE MARTINEZ
Mayor of Emeryville



TOM BUTT
Mayor of Richmond

April 14, 2016

Dear Mayor Schaaf and Members of the Oakland City Council:

We urgently request that you do everything you can to ensure that coal is not allowed to be shipped from the marine terminal under development at the former Oakland Army Base. Coal was not considered in the environmental review of the project when it was approved, and if you don't stop what would be the largest coal terminal on the West Coast of the United States, the health and safety impacts could be severe, not just for Oakland but also for our communities and for the world.

Here is what some of the world's leading organizations say about coal:

- The American Lung Association considers coal dust a source of particulate matter that is dangerous to breathe.
- The World Health Organization cites coal dust, along with silica and asbestos, as responsible for most occupational lung diseases due to airborne particulate.
- The United States Environmental Protection Agency cites numerous scientific studies that link particulate matter with significant health problems, including premature death in people with lung or heart disease, nonfatal heart attacks, irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function, and increased respiratory symptoms such as irritation of the airways, coughing, or difficulty in breathing.
- There are no proven topping agents that have demonstrated effectiveness at reducing coal dust over long trips.

Neighborhoods near the port, already suffering the health burdens of toxic pollution from other port activities, would be exposed to coal dust and increased emissions from increased coal train traffic. Our communities also would be impacted. A main rail line likely to be used by coal shipments passes through our cities. Our communities would be exposed not only to coal dust and increased diesel emissions but also to increased risk of collisions and derailments from coal trains. Coal also is the leading source of greenhouse gas emissions among fossil fuels, thus harming our environment no matter where it's burned, and the hydrocarbons and toxic metals dispersed into the atmosphere by coal burning in Asia travel across the Pacific to the West Coast and add to the problems of increased sea level rise, drought and forest wild fires that climate change brings to our state.

We sincerely urge you – for the sake of all of us and the planet – to take action to reject the coal plan and protect the health and safety of our communities.

Sincerely,


Peter Maass

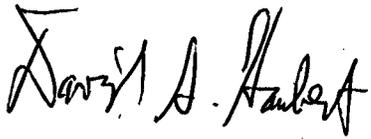

Tom Bates


Greg Lyman


Dianne Martinez


Tom Butt

ADDITIONAL MAYORS OPPOSED TO THE SHIPMENT OF COAL EXPORTS THROUGH OAKLAND



Mayor David Haubert



Mayor Bill Harrison



Mayor Barbara Halliday



Mayor John Marchand



Mayor Pauline Cutter



Mayor Carol Dutra-Vernaci

