

3) Response to Follow-up to Questions from the Environmental Protection Agency

From: [Gaudario, Abigail](#) on behalf of [Blumenfeld, Jared](#)
To: [Cole, Doug](#); [DL - City Council](#)
Cc: [Grow, Richard](#)
Subject: EPA Comments regarding proposed Oakland Coal Terminal
Date: Monday, October 05, 2015 3:52:11 PM
Attachments: [EPA Comments Proposed Coal Export Terminal.pdf](#)

Please see attached letter from U.S. EPA regarding the proposed Oakland Coal Terminal.

Abigail Gaudario
Office of the Regional Administrator
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105
(415) 947-4238



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street

San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

OCT 5 2015

**OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR**

City Council President Lynette Gibson McElhaney
Oakland City Hall
1 Frank H. Ogawa Plaza
Oakland, CA 94612

Subject: Proposed Coal Export Terminal in Oakland

Dear Council President Gibson McElhaney and Councilmembers:

I am writing regarding the proposed coal export terminal in Oakland. Thank you for providing a hearing on September 21, 2015, to gather input from the community and for your commitment to evaluate information received as a result of the hearing.

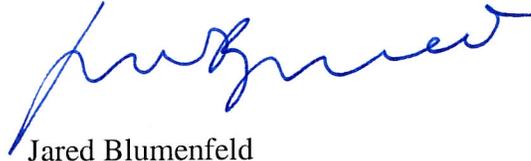
EPA has worked closely with the West Oakland community since the late 1990's. In 2002, EPA began facilitating a structured collaborative process to provide a forum for problem solving among the broad set of stakeholders involved in the revitalization of West Oakland. This effort was formalized in 2005 as the West Oakland Toxics Reduction Collaborative, and was quite active for several years, including participation by the Administrator of EPA in two of the Collaborative's meetings.

In January, 2000 EPA provided comments on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to assess the potential impacts that might result following transfer and reuse of the Oakland Army Base (OAB). While the EIS identified potential "significant adverse air quality effects," it did not address impacts associated with the proposed transport and export of coal. That EIS was prepared to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and was finalized in 2001. I understand that subsequent additional environmental review documents were prepared to comply with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). While the CEQA reviews did not consider coal transport and handling impacts, they nevertheless projected, after mitigation, "significant but unavoidable" air quality impacts. As you are likely aware, our agency and other environmental and public health agencies requested further discussion of mitigation plans to better address the remaining impacts. We do not anticipate additional review of this project unless there is another federal agency action subject to NEPA.

In recent years, coal handling and transport related projects proposed in other areas (Oregon and Washington) have required federal permits and associated reviews. We note that, while the specific facts may differ, the results of the analysis completed for these other projects may provide insight into the possible impacts of the proposed coal export terminal in Oakland. Please contact Richard Grow, EPA Region 9 Air Division, at grow.richard@epa.gov if you need assistance locating relevant environmental review documents to aid in your decisionmaking.

In support of our ongoing relationship with the West Oakland Toxics Reduction Collaborative, we encourage the City to consider public health and environmental impacts, as well as measures to reduce such impacts, when making decisions about possible future uses at the Port of Oakland.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared Blumenfeld". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Jared Blumenfeld

cc: William O. Bresnick, DHS
Pattie Tom, DOT
Jack Broadbent, BAAQMD