

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

**Center for Environmental Health
Citizen's Coalition for a Safe Community
Coalition for a Safe Environment
Coalition for Clean Air
Communities for a Better Environment
Earth Day Los Angeles
East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
End Oil/Communities for Clean Ports
Greater Long Beach Interfaith Council
Long Beach Coalition for a Safe Environment
Los Angeles County Bicycle Coalition
Natural Resources Defense Council
Pacific Institute
Physicians for Social Responsibility – Los Angeles
Regional Asthma Management & Prevention
Rose Foundation for Communities & the Environment
Ryan Snyder Associates
Sierra Club Angeles Chapter
Urban & Environmental Policy Institute, Occidental College
West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project**

December 3, 2010

Jared Blumenfeld
Administrator
U.S. EPA, Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Tom Kelly
Environmental Review Office
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Via email to: Guillermo Lopez, EPA Region 9, at lopez.guillermo@epa.gov

RE: Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach

Dear Administrator Blumenfeld and Mr. Kelly:

The undersigned are writing to you to express our support of your efforts to establish a Health Impact Assessment (HIA) for the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. The

undersigned agree with and support the comments provided to you by Jesse Marquez, Executive Director of the Coalition for a Safe Environment and Andrea Hricko, Professor of Preventive Medicine, University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine & Director, Community Outreach and Education, Southern California Environmental Health Sciences Center. The referenced comments are on file with your office.

We applaud EPA's efforts to address the health impacts from the operations of the Port of LA and Long Beach. The implementation of a robust HIA of the harbor area is necessary to address health concerns and health inequities in communities impacted by port operations. For too long, port communities, most of which are low-income communities of color, have borne the burden of disproportionate impacts from the Ports' operations and goods movement activity.

We support and sign on to the comments and suggestions submitted by the Coalition for a Safe Environment and Professor Hricko. In particular, we support the call for examination of off-port health and quality of life proposals by the two ports to build/expand the Union Pacific and BNSF Railway intermodal facilities in Wilmington near West Long Beach. The scope of the HIA must evaluate such off-port impacts.

On behalf of the neighborhoods that surround the Ports and which line the transportation corridors in and out of the Ports, we thank you for your consideration and your commitment to adequately measure the full impact of the Ports' operations as a way to ensure health protective policies and projects.

Respectfully,

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