



OAKLAND COAL EXPORTS

A private developer wants to use public land and taxpayer dollars to export dirty coal through Oakland. Not only would this hurt our global climate, it would damage the health of local communities that already face dangerous levels of air pollution.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

A portion of the former Oakland Army Base is being developed as a bulk export facility, known as the Oakland Bulk and Oversized Terminal (OBOT). CCIG, the developer, went behind the backs of the Oakland City Council to solicit a partnership with four Utah counties that could allow Utah to export up to 10 million tons of coal from their mines each year. A Utah funding body approved \$53 million to buy space at Oakland Bulk Terminal for these coal exports. When developer Phil Tagami was negotiating with the City of Oakland to lease the land at the Army Base, he promised concerned residents that the facility would be coal free. Unfortunately he broke that promise—to get access to the \$53 million offered by Utah. The Army Base project is also supported by \$242 million in Proposition 1B Trade Corridor Improvement Funds, California taxpayer dollars intended to improve state air quality.

COAL: A DANGER TO PUBLIC HEALTH

Exporting dirty coal through Oakland would not only hurt our global climate, it would endanger the health and safety of local communities. West Oakland, where the coal would be handled, is already struggling with the severe air pollution. West Oakland residents are twice as likely to go to the emergency room with asthma as people in Alameda County overall.¹ Each coal train can shed an average of 60,000 pounds of coal dust containing lead and arsenic along its route, and that dust contributes to health problems like asthma and heart disease.

Tests show that coal dust contains arsenic, lead, mercury, chromium, nickel, selenium, and other toxic heavy metals.² Exposure to coal dust is linked to decreased lung capacity, increased childhood bronchitis, asthma, pneumonia,³ emphysema and heart disease.⁴ In a community near a large coal terminal in Virginia, the number of residents suffering from asthma was found to be more than twice the city and state average.⁵ Areas with high levels of coal dust pollution have increased infant mortality rates and decreased life expectancies.⁶

Children are at the greatest health risk from air pollution created by coal dust because they are more likely to be active outdoors and their lungs are still developing. Asthma is a leading cause of missed school days.⁷ On “bad-air days”, kids with asthma are forced to stay indoors for risk of aggravating their conditions.

UNDERMINING CALIFORNIA'S CLIMATE LEADERSHIP

The proposed 10 million tons of coal shipped annually through OBOT will contribute approximately 30 million tons of CO₂ each year to climate change. That's equivalent to the annual carbon emissions of seven average power plants.⁸ All across the U.S. communities are fighting to transition away from coal burning at their local power plants. Just this single coal export terminal would cancel out the efforts of seven of those communities.

California is an international leader on climate change. We have made more progress on reducing carbon emissions than any other state in the U.S. If we allow this coal to pass

through Oakland, we will undermine all the work that has been done, all to profit private developers CCIG, TLS and Bowie Resources Partners, an out-of-state coal company.

As people in the U.S. learn about the health impacts of coal burning, coal-fired power plants have become less and less popular, so domestic coal companies are turning to overseas markets to unload their coal. Local communities along the West Coast have worked hard to stop coal export facilities one by one, creating a “thin green line.” Oakland should join in solidarity with those communities to keep polluters from sacrificing our global climate for a profit.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

This project is taking place on public, city-owned land. The Oakland City Council has the authority to ban coal exports if they have evidence that coal exports are “substantially dangerous to health and safety” for neighboring communities. Those health and safety impacts have been well documented by experts and submitted to the Council. Now the Council needs to stand up to project developer Phil Tagami and say NO to coal exports.

Fortunately, we don’t have to choose between the good jobs created by the terminal overall and the health of our community. The original proposal for the terminal did not include coal—it proposed to ship agricultural products and bulk break items like wind turbines. Of the 2,335 permanent jobs estimated to be produced by the project, only 117 are associated with the Oakland Bulk Terminal.⁹ If the terminal were to ship other commodities, as was

originally proposed, the same number of jobs would be created according to the economic impact review prepared for the City in 2012.¹⁰ By saying no to coal, we can create good jobs while protecting our air quality and public health at the same time.

Join labor unions, environmental activists, faith leaders and local businesses in saying NO to coal in Oakland. Visit sierraclub.org/sfbay/coalfreeoakland to learn more, and call your representative on the Oakland City Council today and ask them to stop coal exports.

DISTRICT	NAME	CONTACT
1	Dan Kalb	dkalb@oaklandnet.com 510-238-7001
2	Abel Guillen	aguillen@oaklandnet.com 510-238-7002
3	Lynette Gibson-McElhane	lmcElhane@oaklandnet.com 510-238-7003
4	Annie Campbell-Washington	acampbell-washington@oaklandnet.com 510-238-7004
5	Noel Gallo	ngallo@oaklandnet.com 510-238-6005
6	Desley Brooks	dbrooks@oaklandnet.com 510-238-7006
7	Larry E. Reid	lreid@oaklandnet.com 510-238-7007
At-large	Rebecca Kaplan	rkaplan@oaklandnet.com 510-238-7008
Mayor	Libby Schaaf	officeofthemayor@oaklandnet.com 510-238-3141

ENDNOTES

- 1 Rubenstein, Grace. “Air Pollution Controversy Swirls Around Oakland Army Base Development | News Fix | KQED News.” KQED News. May 6, 2014. <http://ww2.kqed.org/news/air-pollution-dispute-west-oakland-army-base>.
- 2 Aneja, Viney P., Aaron Isherwood, and Peter Morgan. “Characterization of Particulate Matter (PM10) Related to Surface Coal Mining Operations in Appalachia.” *Atmospheric Environment* 54 (2012): 496-501.
- 3 Brook, Robert, et al. “Particulate Matter Air Pollution and Cardiovascular Disease. An Update to the Scientific Statement From the American Heart Association.” May 9, 2010. Accessed February 10, 2016. <http://circ.ahajournals.org/content/early/2010/05/10/CIR.Ob013e3181d8e1>.
- 4 Landen, Deborah D., James T. Wassell, Linda McWilliams, and Ami Patel, et al. “Coal Dust Exposure and Mortality from Ischemic Heart Disease among a Cohort of U.S. Coal Miners.” *Am. J. Ind. Med. American Journal of Industrial Medicine* 54, no. 10 (2011): 727-33.
- 5 Peninsula Health District, Virginia Department of Health, “Health Needs Assessment of the Southeast Community City of Newport News 2005”.
- 6 Brook, Robert, et al. “Particulate Matter Air Pollution”.
- 7 American Lung Association, Epidemiology and Statistics Unit, Research and Program Services. “Trends in Asthma Morbidity and Mortality,” January 2009.
- 8 Technical Memorandum Air Quality, Climate Change, And Environmental Justice Issues From Oakland Trade And Global Logistics Center. Sustainable Systems Research, LLC, 2015.
- 9 Memorandum: Property Tax And Economic Impacts - Oakland Army Base. San Francisco: Keyser Marston Associates, 2012.
- 10 de Place, Eric, Sightline Institute, “An Alternative to Coal Jobs,” 2011, <http://www.sightline.org/2011/09/14/an-alternative-to-coal/>