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Air District: Port of Oakland air quality plan falls short

SAN FRANCISCO – Today, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District will testify to the state Assembly’s Select Committee on Ports that more should be done by the Port of Oakland to protect the health of residents of West Oakland and the Bay Area.

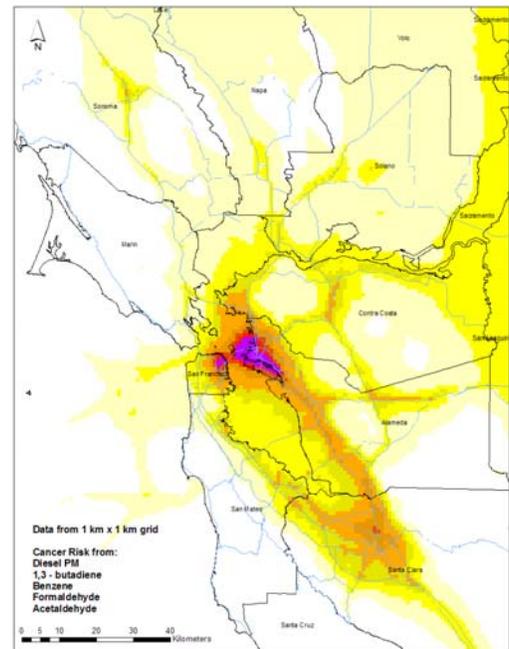
“The Port of Oakland is simply not doing enough to improve air quality and protect the health of its neighbors,” said Jean Roggenkamp, deputy air pollution control officer of the Bay Area Air District. “We must hold the Port of Oakland accountable and insist they do more to reduce diesel exhaust generated from Port activities.”

Tom Bates, Air District Legislative Committee Chair and Berkeley Mayor will urge the committee to require the Port of Oakland to implement measureable commitments and a definitive timeline in their Maritime Air Quality Improvement Plan. Mayor Bates’ testimony will shed light on the significance and urgency of the diesel emissions issue so appropriate legislative steps can be taken to protect the health of West Oakland residents.

The plan is intended to address the health risks from diesel exhaust generated from Port activities. Currently, the Port of Oakland’s Maritime Air Quality Improvement Plan depends mostly on state and federal regulations to make progress toward its health risk reduction goal.

The Air District identified West Oakland as one of the most highly impacted communities in the Bay Area based on diesel truck particulate matter emissions (see map). Residents in the Port area are three times more likely to develop cancer from exposure to diesel exhaust than other Bay Area residents. Residents suffer a disproportionate level of respiratory conditions due to the high levels of air pollution in this community.

The Bay Area Air Quality Management District (www.baaqmd.gov) is the regional agency chartered with protecting air quality in the Bay Area.



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