



R-21

Date: January 4, 2005
To: Honorable Mayor and Councilmembers
From: Councilmember Bonnie Lowenthal *BL*
Councilmember Dan Baker *DB*
Subject: Request for report on air quality initiatives from Port of Long Beach

BACKGROUND

Last year the Long Beach City Council unanimously passed a resolution to support AB2042, authored by Assemblymember Alan Lowenthal, which would have required the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles to actively reduce sources of air pollution generated by port growth if amounts exceeded those in 2001. In that year, pollution sources at the Port of Los Angeles alone produced over 1,000 tons of particulates per day; tiny specks of soot and dust from diesel exhaust that are proven to produce asthma, heart disease and cancer. By the year 2025, particulates are projected to almost triple as a result of port growth and expansion and produce an unfathomable 2.7 tons per day from all port sources. Unfortunately the governor vetoed AB2042 due to industry and business group opposition.

Recently Mayor Hahn developed a process for the Port of Los Angeles to ensure "no net increase" in port pollution using AB2042's baseline of 2001. A task force was appointed comprised of industry users, port tenants and state and federal air quality officials, as well as community stakeholders, to develop a plan to implement "no net increase" in pollution associated with port growth. A draft plan will be forthcoming shortly for review and adoption.

RECOMMENDATION

I would request that the City of Long Beach and the Port of Long Beach develop a similar task force bringing in expertise to coordinate with Los Angeles to ensure a successful process for limiting pollution in the Port complex of Los Angeles and Long Beach. I request a report from the Port on the timeline for establishing such a task force within 30 days.