

City of Long Beach  
Mayor Foster  
Long Beach City Council  
333 West Ocean Blvd., 14th Floor  
Long Beach, CA 90802

Dear City Council,

I reviewed "A White Paper on Environmental Justice: Opportunities in Port of Long Beach Projects" prepared by the consulting firm Jones & Stokes. This report identifies and recommends numerous recommendations that the POLB refused to adopt and incorporate into the Final EIR/EIS and mitigation measures. Therefore, I ask the City Council to NOT approve the Middle Harbor Redevelopment Project because it is your responsibility to protect public health first before private businesses, who are making millions in profits, while neighboring minority and low-income populations are suffering, have sick children, and family members dying from diseases.

Among the recommendations the report lists are:

- 1) The establishment of Citizen's Advisory Committees or Port Communities Advisory Committee, a group of stakeholders that meets regularly to discuss issues of common concern and provide (1) a continuing venue for bringing people's ideas directly into the process and (2) as opportunity to publicize the public participation process.
- 2) Public Participation - The five levels of participation for engaging the public in a project are (1) Informing the Public (2) Consulting the Public, (3) Involving the Public, (4) Collaborating with the Public, and (5) Empowering the Public- placing the final decision-making in the hands of the public. It states that proposed projects should always be guided by the following principles:
  - i) The public tends to support what it helps create
  - ii) Public participation/public involvement programs must be sincere attempts to involve the public in decision-making.
  - iii) Communication must be targeted to everyone who has a stake in the project, not just a few individuals
  - iv) The outreach program must be sensitive to accommodate multi-cultural demographics.
  - v) Consultants and staff must be approachable, must work to fully understand all stakeholder concerns, and must be responsive to the community
  - vi) Information must be factual, accurate, consistent and presented in a timely fashion.
  - vii) Information must be presented to the public in terms and formats that they can understand and must be provided in concert with environmental planning procedures.
  - viii)
- 3) Reaching out to Communities beyond complying with specific environmental justice public outreach requirements, promoting more community involvement at all levels

fosters a mutually beneficial relationship between public agencies and the communities they serve. Design and engage tailored public participation strategies early in a project design stage.

4) Include the identified communities in the project at the onset to avoid surprises and to create buy-in.

5) Tactics for implementing Public Participation Plans or Strategies are Collateral materials, community assessments and polls, crisis management and risk-communicating planning, facilitation and mediation of group discussions and workshops, media relations and media skills training, public meetings and open houses, tours and briefings, and a contacts database and mailing lists for community outreach and distribution of informational materials.

6) the impacts of the proposed project on minority and low income communities should be compared to the impacts on the general public.

7) Where it is concluded that adverse impacts will be predominantly borne by minority and low-income populations and/or will be more severe than impacts to non-minority and non-low-income populations, the environmental document should include justification for carrying out the action.

I ask the Long Beach City Council to require the POIB to implement the recommendations listed in "A White Paper on Environmental Justice."

Concerned Student and Wilmington Resident,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of stylized, cursive letters that appear to be 'J.S.' followed by a long horizontal flourish.