

#39



Teachers Association of Long Beach

4362 ATLANTIC AVENUE LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA 90807-2818
TELEPHONE: (562) 426-6433 FAX: (562) 424-9352
E-mail Address: mdav@talb.org Website: www.talb.org

November 14, 2006

To Whom It May Concern:

The teachers in our city have long advocated for better monitoring of air quality in our area to protect the health of our students. Everyday we teach students that suffer the affects of poor air quality. For many of our students there is no escaping air pollution whether they are at school, walking to school along busy congested streets, or even at home which might lie in a documented "cancer cluster". It has been shown that air pollution can be a cause of asthma and other respiratory illnesses that result higher absences and less success in school. Many of our teachers have worked diligently to implement better monitoring and mitigation of pollution especially on the Westside of our district.

I strongly support efforts to better monitor air pollution in our city. It is important to know exactly which areas are most affected by pollution so we can all take measures to preserve the health and educational success of our children.

With so many major polluters in our city, such as the Port of Long Beach, increased truck traffic on our freeways, the Long Beach Airport, and more cars on our streets, our city needs to work with other agencies in the area to come to grips with this problem. All efforts to help our students live healthier lives will be supported by teachers because we want the best for our kids.

Sincerely,

President
Teachers Association of Long Beach

Long Beach Council PTA

PTA

every child. one voice.

1515 Hughes Way, Suite 227
 Long Beach, CA 90810
 562-697-8046

2005-07 Board of Directors

President

Sandra Scott

Vice-President

Kelly Reyes

Area A Advisor

Gail Long

Area B Advisor

Leslie Gebb

Area C Advisor

Sharon Coudyser

Area D Advisor

Larri Servin

Auditor

Tracy McCrabb

Budget and Finance

Linda Haines

Treasurer

Elena Wraight

Director of Community Services

Diana Craighead

Director of Health & Safety

BJ Thompson

Director of Legislation

Birgit De La Torre

Financial Secretary

Tina Blone

Historian

Brenda Soloman

Recording Secretary

Laura Costley

November 14, 2006

Re: Municipal Air Particulate Policy

Honorable Members of the Council and Mayor Foster,

The Long Beach Council PTA is asking for your support of a *Municipal Air Particulate Policy*, and we hope that you will instruct the City Manager accordingly tonight.

We are sure that you all agree that pollution in this city has reached a level that we can no longer live with. What we don't necessarily all agree on is how to deal with it. Councilman O'Donnell's proposal represents a big step towards obtaining an answer to that question.

Recent events have again made it painfully clear, that we cannot count on the state or federal government to protect us. We have to be proactive and assertive, if not aggressive.

In order to attack this public health crisis effectively, we need a comprehensive, city-wide, air monitoring program to tell us what exactly we are dealing, what the risk factor are and who or what is too "blame."

We need to get honest answers about the true economic cost to this city, including the less obvious costs. For example, how much ADA money does our school district loose every year due to pollution related student absences? Or what is the cost for tutoring of these children who are falling behind in school due to many such absences?

We are encouraged by a statement our mayor made when he said that projected growth at the ports cannot occur without a **"simultaneously, consistent, well-funded, durable program to clean up the environment."**

We believe that the proposal before you will help put actions with words and will result in tools you need to more effectively protect our health. Voters of California, state and federal legislators have put funds for growth before us with very little money to clean up the environment. We hope that now, our local leaders will take "the bull by the horn" and tonight call for a thorough analysis of all the options available to pay for the negative effects of development and growth.

Sincerely,
 Birgit De La Torre
 Long Beach Council PTA
 Director of Legislation