

To Mayor O'Neill and City Council members:
October 16, 2005

I cannot be at the City Council meeting on October 18, so I would like to provide my input on agenda item number 28.

The BNSF proposal is to build a container railyard west of the City. The property is made up of Long Beach, Carson, and Wilmington property. The people most affected are the children and residents of West Long Beach, but in reality, all residents of the City may be affected. The reason I emphasize children is that within a couple hundred yards of the proposed facility are two schools and two heavily used parks. Within 300 yards, add another school and a boys and girls club.

I'm sure BNSF has talked to all of you and described their clean, green facility they intend to build. But the problem is what they aren't telling you and other people. It's the 1.5 million trucks that will be coming in and out of the facility, idling on the streets and the TI Freeway. Recently, the LA Harbor Commission said that they would try to use electric or LNG trucks only or find another way of getting the containers to the facility.

This only solves a portion of the problem. The container railyard itself will be a big problem. BNSF says they will only use LNG or electrical equipment, but there are no regulations that can keep them from using other equipment, especially after they get in. In their Watson railyard in Wilmington, they use the dirtiest equipment and won't respond to any of the neighbor's issues. When asked, they say they are federally regulated and don't have to respond to anything. So, there is no guarantee that BNSF will be a good neighbor with this facility and keep using clean equipment.

The other problem is that even if they use clean equipment it will still generate pollution, just less than the dirty railyards. It will also contribute dust, noise, rubber particulates from their tires, and high intensity lighting 24 hours a day. These will all have a dire effect on the residents.

If they still use trucks, 1.5 million trucks plus the 600,000 trucks already going to ICTF, the freeways and our streets will be backed up many times each day. They will use both the Long Beach and TI freeways, and any other streets they can.

I ask that you support the opposition to this project, whatever form the project takes. One more of our children getting asthma or getting sick is one too many, and any thing they do will add to the already unhealthy conditions.

Sincerely,

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