



Date: February 5, 2007
To: Honorable Chair and Members of the Environmental Committee
From: Councilmember Patrick O'Donnell, Fourth District
Vice Chair, Environmental Committee
Subject: Long Beach Airport Air Quality Study

The Port of Long Beach recently initiated a policy to study the level of pollution attributed to Port activities and to develop ways to address and mitigate the adverse effects of Port-based pollution. The success of the Port of Long Beach's program is important to all Southern California residents, but especially to those who live in Long Beach in close proximity to the Port.

The City of Long Beach needs to continue its efforts to study pollution and seek out ways to address health concerns related to poor air quality. On November 14, 2006, the Council requested the City Manager explore the development of a Municipal Air Particulate Policy (MAPP), with the aim to expand the City's air quality monitoring stations. The Council letter including monitoring of "air quality impacts at the Long Beach Airport." In order to begin to address potential impacts and expand monitoring efforts, the City should immediately initiate a program to study pollution from the Long Beach Airport and how that pollution affects the health of residents.

A study should take real-time samples of air toxics to best analyze the effects of airport pollution. The goals of the study should be to: characterize the long-term ambient concentrations of selected air toxics in the immediate vicinity of the Long Beach Airport; to evaluate whether contributions from airport emissions can be discerned from the contributions from other sources of pollution; and to evaluate the potential health risks associated with emissions from the Airport. Airport Enterprise funds could be considered as potential funding mechanism for this study.

An example of a study that could be conducted in Long Beach is already underway at New Jersey's Teterborough Airport. In this study, an open path Differential Optical Absorbance System (DOAS) is being utilized to collect data on air contaminants on a real time, continuous basis. I believe the residents of Long Beach deserve a level of investigation similar to that being conducted for the residents of Teterborough. The information obtained from our study can be used in making future decisions at the Long Beach Airport.

Recommended Action:

Refer a request that the City Manager work with appropriate staff to initiate an Air Pollution Study at the Long Beach Airport to the full City Council.