



Date: October 18, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Bonnie Lowenthal, First District *BL*
Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District *RU*
Councilmember Val Lerch, Ninth District *Val*

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA INTERNATIONAL GATEWAY RAIL YARD**

The Los Angeles Harbor Department (LAHD) released a Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Initial Study for the purposes of preparing an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for a near-dock intermodal rail facility, called the Southern California International Gateway Project (SCIG) by the BNSF. The proposed SCIG Project would be primarily located on State of California owned property administered by LAHD in the City of Los Angeles, though portions of the Project would also be located in the City of Carson and City of Long Beach.

The project is anticipated to divert over a million trucks, from the Ports of LA/LB, off the I-710 Freeway and bring them to West Long Beach for rail transfer. The NOP's Environmental Checklist and Impact Analysis cites several "Potentially Significant Impacts", most notably under Section III – Air Quality.

- The Project would result in permanent increased air emissions at and near the site due to an increase in rail and truck traffic traveling to and from the site in connection with the proposed rail loading and unloading activities.
- The Project could result in an increase in pollution that might violate existing air quality standards for ozone and for air toxic pollutants such as diesel particulate matter.
- The construction and operation of the project could expose the very young, the elderly, and those suffering from certain illnesses or disabilities to increased air pollution concentrations in the form of ozone precursors and diesel particulate exhaust.

The community is extremely concerned with these impacts and has expressed overwhelming opposition to the proposal. We request a report from the City Manager on this project in order to provide comments to the NOP prior to the November 4, 2005 deadline. We also request that matters related to the SCIG be referred to the City Council's I-710 Freeway Oversight Committee with authority to take appropriate action(s) and to prepare recommendations.

Recommendation to request City Manager to provide a report on the SCIG and to communicate comments of the City of Long Beach in response to the Notice of Preparation issued by the LAHD on September 19, 2005; and direct that matters related to the SCIG be referred to the I-710 Oversight Committee with authority to take appropriate action and prepare recommendations for City Council.