

February 25, 2021

Honorable Sona Coffee, Chair
Honorable Commissioners of the Sustainable City Commission

SUBJECT: Recommendation to Receive Presentation from the Long Beach Port

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing on behalf of Move Our City. Org. A nonprofit organization founded in Long Beach to advance critical equity goals related to Environmental Justice.

While we are grateful that the Director of Environmental Planning, Matt Arms, is today presenting an update on the Green Port Initiative we have several concerns.

First, notably the Director's presentation begins with apparently high reductions in environmental health hazards such as Diesel Particulate Matter and Sulfur Oxide between 2005 and 2019.

However, while we do not at all believe it was the Director's intent, the numbers lack full transparency. It is misleading that the Director presents data in the form of percentages. As you likely know, using confusing or misleading numbers like percentage changes puts one at risk of over- or underestimating impact, and leaving the public unsure of what's been accomplished. Absolute numbers and percentage points are the industry standard.

According to the Enacting Ordinance that empowers this Commission, your stated purpose is to:

- (1) increase **education** and **awareness** of the environment,
- (2) serve as a forum for **community discussion** of these environmental issues
- (3) **encourage input** and **participation** from all sectors of the community

Thus, without knowing the absolute change numbers or the specific percentage points the information provided by the director undercuts the Commission's ability to perform its duty to foster a forum that educates or encourages input and public participation. Adequate public access is a virtue of equitable government.

Second, last year's Port update included the percentage of Community Grant Programs that were allocated to parks and open space (14%, 2020) and Air Filters (23%, 2020). This same data is not found in the Director's visual presentation.

Looking through an equity lens, it is important to know how much and to what area or zip codes of the city this funding was provided for parks and open space and air filters. Without such details it is virtually impossible for the committee to assess the equity of grant funding given the

disparate impact of Port activity on the lives and health of underserved residents living in West, Central and North Long Beach.

Third, the Director's presentation includes a discussion of the Clean Truck Program. However, during the Pandemic Port Commissioners suspended Zero Emission TEU fees until 2021. It is vitally important that the public know how likely the Port is to meet the 2035 Target in light of that suspension.

To honor your mission and commitment to equity, we respectfully submit that the Honorable Commissioners do the following:

- 1) Request that the Director provide the absolute change and percentage points for Diesel PM, Nitrogen Oxide, Sulfur Oxide, Green House Gas and TEU's for the 2005 - 2019 time span.
- 2) Request that the Director provide information on the specific geographical (zip code) impact of Community Grant Funding based on the underserved communities most impacted by Port activities.
- 3) Ask the Director what impact the suspension of Zero Emission TEU fees has on the likelihood of meeting the Clean Air Action Plan Target for zero Port emissions by 2035?

Respectfully Yours,

Franklin I. Sims
Government Affairs Representative
Move Our City.org