




Date: September 20, 2005
To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District 

Subject: **AGENDA ITEM: Resolutions to support SCAQMD efforts to improve air quality by reducing Railyard Diesel Emissions and to adopt rules governing Diesel Particulate Control Measures for public and private fleets.**

The need to improve air quality is established under Environmental Goal E4 of the City of Long Beach 2010 Strategic Plan. A specific Strategic Action was established under the Environment Goals of the 2010 Plan to collaborate with the Air Quality Management District (AQMD), Regional Water Quality Control Board, and other agencies in regional efforts to reduce pollution. (E1.9) The 2010 Plan also called for the Long Beach Unified School District and Long Beach Transit to explore opportunities to reduce emissions from diesel bus fleets through conversion to clean air technology or other means compatible with operating and financial constraints. (E4.3)

The AQMD recently undertook significant measures that are consistent with the goals of the 2010 Plan relative to diesel emissions from railroad operations and fleet vehicles, including public transit and school buses. These actions include a formal request to the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to delay the implementation of a Memorandum of Understanding – for the purposes of conducting public hearings – between CARB, the Burlington Northern Santa Fe and Union Pacific railroads that the AQMD considers “deeply flawed and is fraught with problems which cut across legal, technical and policy areas.” The second action undertaken by the AQMD to improve air quality is the recommendation to adopt rules relating to Diesel Particulate Control Measures for Clean Urban Transit Buses, Clean On-Road Solid Waste Collection Vehicles, and Clean On-Road School Buses, for both public and private fleets operating in the region.

These actions, particularly the MOU governing rail yard particulate emissions, warrant consideration by the City Council as the primary impacts of these regional pollutants are immediate borne in our neighborhoods. Additionally, since the rail facilities exist to serve the Ports of LB/LA, we must ensure that the 2010 Plan’s Strategic Action to develop, build, and lease versatile and efficient port facilities that make the maximum use of Port of Long Beach land (B1.7) is achieved with minimal impacts to the surrounding communities. I respectfully request that the City Council adopt a resolution in support of the AQMD’s positions on the CARB/Railroads MOU and rules governing clean on-road fleets.

Suggested Action: Request the City Attorney to draft Resolutions:

- 1. To oppose the CARB/Railroad MOU governing diesel particulate emissions from locomotives and equipment; and,**
- 2. To support the AQMD rules relating to Diesel Particulate Control Measures for Clean Urban Transit Buses, Clean On-Road Solid Waste Collection Vehicles, and Clean On-Road School Buses for both public and private fleets.**