

## Teachers Association of Long Beach, CTA/NEA

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Mayor Bob Foster and Members of the Long Beach City Council 333 W. Ocean Blvd. 14<sup>th</sup> Floor Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Long Beach Leadership for Health and Jobs

Dear Honorable Mayor and City Council,

On behalf of the over 350 TALB members that teach adjacent to the proposed Southern California International Gateway (SCIG) and Intermodal Container Transfer Facility (ICTF) Railyard projects we ask that you protect the health of our teachers, students, and community by opposing these projects and identify and develop other safer and less polluting alternatives with residents and other community stakeholders.

TALB members at Cabrillo High School, Hudson K-8, Webster Elementary, Stephens Middle School, Garfield Elementary, and Muir Elementary have long been active seeking remedies to the terrible pollution that exists where they work and where their students live. It is shameful that the city is considering expanding these rail yards adjacent to these schools and communities that already exist in a "diesel death zone." With port traffic expected to rise in the near future the number of diesel trucks bringing cargo into these facilities, using streets that go right through these impacted neighborhoods, will also increase dramatically. The effect will be more environmental devastation on top of an existing local cancer cluster.

We ask that you formally oppose the SCIG and ICTF proposed projects and develop a community stakeholder group to identify safer, non-polluting alternatives to the SCIG and ICTF. As our local leaders we look to you to do what is best for the residents of our city, especially a neighborhood that has suffered for so long for the benefit of others who reap the advantages of the nation's largest port complex.

Sincerely,

Michael Day

President

Teachers Association of Long Beach

cc:

**TALB Board of Directors** 

Joe Boyd, TALB Executive Director