

In re)
)
CITY OF LONG BEACH)
CITY COUNCIL MEETING.)
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ORIGINAL

TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS

Long Beach, California

Tuesday, December 6, 2011

Reported by:

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1 Long Beach, California, Tuesday, December 6, 2011

2
3 MR. HERRERA: Item 21 is a communication from
4 the office Councilwoman Rae Gabelich and Councilmember
5 James Johnson with a recommendation that the City Council
6 adopt the position that it opposes the Southern California
7 International Gateway facility at -- as it is currently --
8 at its currently proposed location and that there is a
9 significant -- and that there are significant and
10 fundamental flaws in the Draft Environmental Impact Report
11 which underestimates the major impacts of the project and
12 direct the city manager to communicate to the Los Angeles
13 Harbor Department the city's position prior to the close
14 of public comment period for the draft EIR on December
15 26th, 2011.

16 MAYOR FOSTER: Councilmember Gabelich.

17 MS. GABELICH: Thank you, Mayor.

18 And first of all, I want to apologize to
19 everybody that called and asked what time this would be
20 heard. We're a lot later than what I thought and what I
21 had anticipated but obviously a number of you know that
22 what this is about is a major new dock rail facility is
23 proposed for the property which is located primarily
24 within the Port of Los Angeles but it's also located on a
25 portion of property within the City of Long Beach and is

1 adjacent to schools, homes and other facilities in west
2 Long Beach. This new facility called the SCIG facility
3 would operate 24 hours a day, seven days a week; trucks
4 and trains would arrive and depart from the facility day
5 and night. The project would result in 1.5 million truck
6 trips annually. Today we have we realize 500,000. That
7 would begin in 2016 and ultimately reach two million truck
8 trips by 2023. That's more than 5,500 truck trips a day.
9 The base line used in this analysis was six years old. I
10 think that's a little old to be comparing and I think that
11 they need to go back and -- and take another look at it.

12 The proposed project will also result in a
13 significant loss of permanent local jobs from the existing
14 use on sites, and I'd like to talk a little bit more about
15 that. Specifically I've had the opportunity to visit a
16 couple of these businesses and to speak with the
17 management.

18 I'll begin with the jobs impact which I think is
19 really significant. We talk about this all the time and
20 we talk about how important job creation is for our
21 community and for our citizens. Today Cal Cartage is a
22 tenant on a 75-acre site. They've been there for 49
23 years, since 1962. Today this site generates
24 approximately 300,000 truck trips each year. All the
25 trucks are 2007 or newer and in compliance with the Clean

1 Truck Program. Cal Cartage employs nearly 1,000 people.
2 And isn't this amazing that this isn't important enough.
3 I apologize to all of you for the people that are not
4 sitting behind the rail.

5 Cal Cartage employs nearly 1,000 people that
6 have worked there for decades, many are Long Beach
7 residents. The average salary with benefits is about
8 \$40,000 a year, and those benefits include dental, health,
9 long-term disability and pension programs.

10 In the beginning of this project development Cal
11 Cartage was included in a discussion about a possible
12 30-acre site which about half of it was in the Port of
13 L.A.'s home port area. Now this offer was taken off the
14 table as the project progressed and my question is if
15 there's any representative here from the Port of L.A., why
16 did that happen. Today the offer has been reduced to Cal
17 Cartage to an 11-acre site south of PCH that may not be
18 usable and certainly would not be adequate to relocate the
19 existing business and the thousand jobs that exist today.
20 Cal Cartage Long Beach would be out of business, 1,000
21 local residents would be out of work.

22 The other company, L.A. Grain, has been a tenant
23 for 52 years. They employ a hundred people, and 50 of
24 them are Long Beach citizens. They export grain to the
25 Pacific Rim including China, Japan, Korea, Thailand and

1 other countries. They receive their products mostly from
2 the midwest but their -- their need is that they need a
3 rail spur on -- for all transports. The problem with this
4 is there is no location for them, they have not been
5 advised by the Port of L.A. that there's an alternative
6 site and so they would be gone.

7 The other company that I'm familiar with is
8 Three -- Three Rivers, and they employ approximately a
9 hundred people. They ship refrigerated export products,
10 another offset to our trade deficit. Together these three
11 companies provide permanent jobs to over 1200 people.
12 And I want to recognize the folks that are here
13 representing the unions. We support union jobs. We
14 reaffirm the support of creating new jobs to keep families
15 and their homes and keep food on the table. That should
16 be our number one priority. If and when this is built,
17 this facility is built, the jobs will be there, and I have
18 to say shame on BNSF for using the carrot of a POA to
19 ignite your fire. Your families, your children's families
20 will be here for decades to come. We must look
21 responsibly to the conditions we are creating for their
22 future.

23 Neighborhood impacts. The proposal of 1.5
24 million truck trips, two million by 2023, without
25 recognizing the significant health risks associated with

1 this project is an injustice to our communities. The UCLA
2 study now confirms ultrafine particulate matter goes to
3 the cellular level and can impact neurological
4 development, and I suggest you all find yourself a copy of
5 that and read what the exposures are.

6 Asthma and heart disease are high level killers related to
7 these pollution generators, cancer cases increase
8 significantly by truck, train and port related pollutants.
9 All of this knowledge and the giant rail industry is not
10 held accountable, nor do they show a conscience.

11 Where are the alternative sites. The traffic
12 analysis and the DEIR claims that a new rail yard with up
13 to two million annual truck trips and 2,880 train trips
14 will not -- will have a no net increase in truck or train
15 traffic. How is that possible? The DEIR also states that
16 there are no commulative impacts from this project.
17 That's impossible. They do, however, acknowledge that
18 there will be significant, yet unavoidable, noise impacts
19 to the surrounding communities 24 hours a day, seven days
20 a week. There will be light pollution from the 40-foot
21 high mast light poles. It's stated in the DEIR that it's
22 not going to have a significant impact on adjacent
23 neighborhoods. That's impossible. I witness a container
24 storage yard directly from my neighborhood where we live
25 with that negative experience, and this project will be at

1 least eight times larger than that storage area is.

2 So I'd like to consider what are the alternatives. First
3 of all, is this project necessary for the future success
4 of the Port of Los Angeles and the Port of Long Beach? We
5 have pier S that will accommodate one million lifts a
6 year. We have the middle harbor that I believe is equal,
7 one million more lift a year. Tray pack is in the process
8 of developing on-dock rail. They will have it in
9 operation within two years. They take about 100,000
10 containers a year and they anticipate that 80 percent of
11 those containers will use the method of their on-dock
12 rail.

13 The 710 project design is considering four
14 designated truck lanes to accommodate future port business
15 and as supported earlier by this council, all interested
16 parties should be analyzing zero emissions technology,
17 funding zero emissions pilot projects and truthfully
18 acknowledging that there will always be impacts from
19 industry growth. My question is who's looking at the big
20 picture. If after careful analysis the BNSF project is
21 considered critical to the needs of both ports then I
22 suggest looking once again for alternative sites. This
23 was not given serious consideration in the draft EIR.
24 They used the current -- they did not use the current
25 available data when they made the determinations of

1 significant impacts, they used 2005. We do have new
2 information available and I think to be honest and sincere
3 in this process they should go back and analyze using that
4 data.

5 Once again, looking at both ports and the
6 possible alternatives, not putting additional burdens on
7 the residents, the students, the patients who will be the
8 recipients of negative political power, I'd like to make
9 the motion, and I know we're going to hear a lot of
10 testimony on this.

11 I guess the other thing I'd like to remind
12 everybody that I -- I looked at the -- and we all got the
13 book from BNSF. It has 64 letters in it supporting the
14 development.

15 Not too long ago, earlier this year the west
16 side came forward to us with 1800 signatures from west
17 side residents asking that we stand up for them in this
18 development and ask the Port of L.A. please find another
19 location; we're going to lose jobs if this goes through,
20 1200 good paying jobs for family members that have been
21 there for a long, long time.

22 The alternative is BNSF will have 400 permanent
23 jobs. And I know they like to say well, in addition to
24 the 400 jobs it also reaches out to 22,000 other jobs
25 associated with it but I'm sure we can put similar numbers

1 to the companies that I -- that I identified with earlier,
2 you know, when I began speaking.

3 So with that, I'd like to make the motion to
4 recommend that the City Council adopt the position that it
5 opposes the SCIG facility at its currently proposed
6 location and identify there are significant and
7 fundamental flaws in the draft EIR which understates the
8 major impacts of this project and consequently the
9 mitigation of such impacts to the affected communities
10 including schools and residents in Long Beach in close
11 proximity to the project and direct the city manager to
12 communicate to the Los Angeles Harbor Department, to the
13 L.A. mayor and the L.A. City Council the city's position
14 prior to the close of the public comment period for the
15 draft EIR on December 22nd, 2011. Thank you.

16 MR. JOHNSON: I second.

17 MAYOR FOSTER: Moved and seconded.

18 Mr. Johnson.

19 MR. JOHNSON: Thank you, Mayor.

20 I support the appropriate growth of the goods
21 movement right here in our region, here in Long Beach as
22 well, particularly growth that brings good jobs to our
23 community. I do commend BNSF for committing to a project
24 labor agreement for this proposed project. However, the
25 project before us essentially proposes to bring regional

1 benefits to Southern California at the expense of local
2 communities, particularly the expense of the City of Long
3 Beach and the neighborhoods of West Long Beach. We can
4 and must do better than this.

5 As with many infrastructure projects, the SCIG
6 project would provide jobs and economic activity to the
7 region which are certainly needed, especially in these
8 tough times. However, it would do so at the expense of
9 the neighborhoods directly next door to this affected
10 project just over the city line in Long Beach.

11 Recently the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles have
12 committed themselves to green growth, growth of the goods
13 movement industry that brings economic benefits to the
14 region while improving the environment of the surrounding
15 neighborhoods. Unfortunately this project is not an
16 example of such green growth as the benefits to the region
17 come only at the direct expense of those who live next to
18 the project.

19 Under the SCIG proposal there will be
20 approximately 5500 additional truck trips every day
21 driving within a couple hundred feet of schools, parks and
22 homes. These trucks would add to the health crisis that
23 already exists today. Air quality in these communities
24 known to many as the dirty diesel death zone is already
25 some of the worst in the nation. Residents in the area

1 suffer abnormally high rates of cancer, asthma, heart
2 disease and other ailments directly as a result of the
3 goods movement industry. To these residents the project
4 says get ready for another 5500 trucks a day burning the
5 same fossil fuels that have created this health crisis in
6 the first place. West Long Beach residents simply cannot
7 allow their children, their seniors, their families to
8 become sicker than they are today. Another near-dock rail
9 facility may be needed but why here? Why within a couple
10 hundred feet of several schools and playgrounds? Why next
11 to the Gold Star Manor, America's only housing facility
12 dedicated to providing affordable housing for the
13 relatives of veterans who have died in service of this
14 nation? Why across the street from the Villages of
15 Cabrillo, a nonprofit dedicated to helping fight
16 homelessness for veterans? Why build this heavy
17 industrial use next to residential neighborhoods? Is that
18 good land use? The City Council and the Long Beach Harbor
19 Commission have called for a new model of goods movement
20 where we move goods to market without polluting
21 communities, a system of goods movement that would result
22 in zero emissions. The 710 project committee has
23 established that zero emissions goods movement is
24 feasible.

25 However, this EIR did not even study zero

1 emissions goods movement. Instead, the project assumed to
2 use trucks that pollute surrounding neighborhoods with
3 every trip. This approach, more of the same pollution,
4 more of the same sickness that have plagued our community,
5 is unacceptable. The technology is here. The time has
6 come to move goods and bring the jobs and bring those
7 benefits without polluting our neighborhoods.

8 We do not need to sacrifice some neighborhoods
9 for the benefit of the region. We can grow the port,
10 bring the jobs and have the economic benefits without
11 sacrificing West Long Beach and surrounding neighborhoods.

12 Many of you have come out here to talk about the
13 need for jobs and the need for our project. I don't
14 disagree, we do need the jobs and we may even need a
15 project very similar to this. We don't need it in this
16 location. This proposal is not the green growth we are
17 looking for but growth that comes at the expense of our
18 residents.

19 Let's figure out a way to grow our port, bring
20 those benefits without sacrificing our residents. The
21 future of our ports and the health of our residents depend
22 on it

23 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

24 We have a motion and a second. Obviously we
25 have a large number of people that wish to speak. I'm

1 going to try to accommodate everyone. What I would ask
2 you to do, if you're in line, is please don't be
3 repetitive, make your point quickly, make it succinctly,
4 be courteous to the people behind you. There's a lot of
5 people in line so I'm going to try to accommodate
6 everybody. We'll try not to cut the time down. You are
7 subject to three minutes and no more. I'm going to be
8 very strict about that. It would be very helpful if you
9 could make your point quicker because there's a lot of
10 people here, we'll be here very late. Thank you.

11 Please state your name and where you live.
12 If people in the overflow, if you're going to speak,
13 please come over here. You're going to wait in line for a
14 while. Again, I just urge you -- I don't want to have to
15 start cutting you down to time but -- I'll try to allow
16 everybody to speak but please be courteous to the people
17 behind you, please.

18 MR. CROSS: Mr. Mayor, councilmembers, my name
19 is John Cross. And I would like to commend Councilwoman
20 Gabelich and Councilman Johnson for bringing this before
21 the City Council of Long Beach. This is actually a brave
22 move on your parts.

23 My name is John Cross. I represent the West
24 Long Beach Association, and you guys know you can find me
25 when you want to, so my address is on file.

1 We passed out some literature that you received with maps
2 if you all have them before you.

3 We're not opposed to this project, and most of
4 the groups up here -- would you all please stand up if
5 you're opposed to the project being built? Yeah, yeah,
6 you're supporting this project that council moved right
7 now? Okay.

8 MAYOR FOSTER: You're losing a lot of time.

9 MR. CROSS: Yeah. Okay. Real fast. Okay.
10 There's a lot of people here that are not going to speak
11 but they're for Councilwoman Gabelich and Councilman
12 Johnson's proposal.

13 We think -- we're not against labor getting the
14 jobs for this deal. It's a bad land movement use. You
15 don't -- you know you don't build extra schools in
16 residential. If you look at your map, all these locations
17 are less than a quarter of a mile from the location of the
18 facility and it's just not good land usage. You know, I
19 lived there for -- since 1961 in that area, and that curve
20 where you're getting off right at the Villages of Cabrillo
21 5,000 trucks a day are going to be going right off that
22 off ramp right in front of the Villages of Cabrillo, 5,000
23 at that on ramp. And I live less than a quarter of a mile
24 from the ICTF existing rail yard and all during the night
25 I hear beep, beep, beep, clang, clang, and there's lights

1 out there, like you said.

2 What I'm asking this council to do tonight is
3 support their agenda item, the --

4 We've met with the mayor of L.A. and some of his
5 staff and they said where does Long Beach stand on this.
6 Well, tonight's the chance to prove where Long Beach
7 stands on this project. You can send them a letter if you
8 a support your agenda item and say Long Beach is for clean
9 air, we're for jobs but we're not for poisoning the
10 residents of the western side of the city. The trucks,
11 yeah, they're 80 percent cleaner, that's what BNSF says,
12 we're going to be cleaner than any existing facility.
13 Same trucks going into Cal Cartage, L.A. Grain, Three
14 Rivers trucks are being used there that are going to be
15 used at the rail yard, they're all clean, 80 percent
16 cleaner. But it's still going to be more pollution if
17 they bring in an extra million and a half trucks that are
18 not there now.

19 Tonight -- or a couple of months ago
20 Councilwoman Lowenthal brought before you a began on
21 plastic bags. That night was a night that we turned in
22 1800 petitions. What I'm asking you tonight is show as
23 much consideration for these kids right here. This
24 picture's a couple years old but this is how these kids go
25 to bed with respirators on at night because of the asthma

1 they have. And I know Councilwoman Lowenthal has
2 children, Mr. O'Donnell has children; you're both in the
3 educational field. Hudson School has a 15 percent asthma
4 rate. Tonight you passed a resolution -- or passed agenda
5 items 25 and 26 to help obesity with kids. Pass this
6 tonight so kids don't have to go to bed like this and have
7 the asthma problem. They got 15 percent asthma rate.

8 Thank you.

9 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, John, appreciate it.
10 I know you're enthusiastic but it's going to just continue
11 to take longer so I'm trying to get everybody heard
12 tonight, so let's try to be as efficient as we can. Okay.

13 MR. BAKER: Good evening. Thank you, Mayor and
14 council. My name's Wally Baker. I'm president of Jobs
15 First Alliance. We're an organization made up of union
16 and business leaders and we are doing a campaign to beat
17 the Panama Canal which is expanding in 2014 and doubling
18 its capacity. That will provide the gulf and east coast
19 the opportunity to bypass L.A.-Long Beach.

20 One of the issues that we have is making sure
21 that we improve our speed to market and that we put as
22 much on rail as we can and get as many trucks off the
23 highway. This project is perfect in every way that we can
24 see. It's been 12 years going through the process.
25 They've looked at every site. This site is the best use

1 of land, it's the best use of our facilities and it's the
2 best use not wasting our maritime land which is very, very
3 scarce, so our organization is very supportive of this
4 project. It's a number of good construction union jobs, I
5 want to say about 1500 a year, and 22,000 permanent direct
6 and indirect jobs.

7 And as you know, 25 percent of California's
8 economy is based on trade and international commerce so
9 what we do here in Southern California is very important,
10 it is how you're going to roll your revenue, it's how we
11 can go forward.

12 We also think this is an extremely great
13 environmental project. We've looked at every aspect and
14 we're comfortable with that and we'd like to see it move
15 sooner, not later. We want to send a message to our
16 customers that we want them, that we support projects that
17 are going to support them, and going forward I would ask
18 you to consider not agreeing to this resolution. We don't
19 think it's helpful. We don't think this is going to
20 improve our job situation and we certainly don't think
21 it's going to improve our speed to market or cargo. So
22 please reject this, come up with a different approach,
23 that's perfectly fine. All the comments are legitimate
24 for an EIR but they're not how you do it. I don't think
25 you want to poke the City of L.A. in the eye with these

1 comments when they don't even have the EIR done and that's
2 sort of the process. This is the draft EIR and all of us
3 should be waiting for the finalization and supporting that
4 going forward.

5 Thank you very much.

6 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Baker.

7 Next, please.

8 DR. NICHOLAS: Hi. Dr. Elias Nicholas, The
9 Children's Clinic and founding member of the Long Beach
10 Alliance for Children with Asthma.

11 Tonight you've addressed two of the most
12 profound health problems we have in children, childhood
13 obesity and asthma. I think we've known for a long time
14 that air pollution will exacerbate or trigger asthma but
15 what we now know is it will actually cause asthma and will
16 actually decrease lung growth, especially in those
17 children that are living near sources of pollution.
18 This plan is going to increase the exposure to pollution
19 for a group of children and other vulnerable populations
20 including the elderly by increasing air pollution along
21 that corridor. They already have inordinate amounts of
22 exposure and this will increase it. The EIR study did not
23 really focus on the health aspects. I ask you to look at
24 those health aspects. I know you're a community that's
25 committed and a council to the public health and the

1 well-being of the community. I ask you to support this
2 measure tonight.

3 Thank you.

4 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Dr. Nicholas,
5 appreciate it.

6 Next, please.

7 MR. BARETTA: Hello, Mayor Foster and honorable
8 members of the City Council.

9 My name is Andrew Baretta. I'm an existing city
10 board member for the County Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
11 and we would like to express our strong support for the
12 Southern California International Gateway Project. We see
13 this -- and we also oppose the memorandum to -- memorandum
14 to -- R21.

15 We recommend that opposing this project would
16 not only jeopardize thousands of jobs but the City of Long
17 Beach has a duty -- an economic duty to the entire region.
18 We believe that this is an excellent example of economic
19 development, green growth and dealing with community
20 concerns so they can work together.

21 It is our understanding that BNSF has committed
22 to only allowing those trucks who meet -- that are
23 transporting -- transportation cargo from the marine
24 terminals to facilities that they meet the clean air acts
25 that were established in the plan in 2007, that only newer

1 trucks would be involved. We would stay -- and we also
2 understand that these trucks would stay on existing
3 industrial transportation corridors and not be allowed to
4 go into residential areas.

5 We think that BNSF has gone a long way to be a
6 community partner and has -- has gone way beyond what
7 they're required by making over \$550 million in
8 investments in the regional economy. As a matter of
9 productivity and prudence, we think that the railway
10 project will keep the Southern California ports
11 competitive as it just was mentioned there's a plan to try
12 to expand the Panama Canal and that would allow commerce
13 to be directed away from these ports here especially in
14 Southern California, and we would think that it would
15 seriously injure existing jobs, transportation and our way
16 of life as we see it.

17 With unemployment rates at approximately 12
18 percent here in Long Beach and regionally, we think that
19 the priority should be in creating jobs and creating
20 procurement opportunities for small businesses and to
21 allow people -- and that the city have a priority of
22 economic development issues. We support green growth and
23 cite the railway project as an ideal example of an
24 important economic asset to the region creating thousands
25 of jobs beyond just the City of Long Beach.

1 Finally, we believe that the resolution of opposition is
2 premature at this time. We think that the City of Long
3 Beach would be better served to submit its concerns both
4 locally and regionally --

5 MAYOR FOSTER: You need to --

6 MR. BARETTA: Yes.

7 -- to the Port of L.A. regarding the -- your
8 concerns and that it be included in the final EIR.

9 MAYOR FOSTER: I'm going to stop you at three
10 minutes. I hope you go less.

11 Next, please.

12 MS. CAJAS: Good evening. My name is Sandy
13 Cajas. I am a chair for the California Hispanic
14 Chambers of Commerce, that is from Santa Barbara to San
15 Diego. I am also president of the Regional Hispanic
16 Chamber of Commerce here in Long Beach. Our mission is to
17 promote economic development of my -- of my city, and this
18 is Long Beach.

19 Our economy needs the jobs that will be created
20 by the construction and operation of this rail yard. BNSF
21 has committed to jobs training program into a local hire
22 preference to ensure that Long Beach receives a portion of
23 the benefits of this facility. I urge you to support the
24 SCIG project. It deserves our support, it deserves your
25 support, thank you.

1 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you. That was very
2 succinct, appreciate it, thank you very much.

3 Next, please.

4 MS. CASTRO: Good evening. My name is Lana
5 Castro, and on behalf of the Regional Hispanic Chamber I
6 ask that you reject the motion made by councilmembers
7 Gabelich and Johnson. The ports of Long Beach and Los
8 Angeles are the economic engine of Southern California.
9 We need and -- we need to grow the port and the SCIG
10 project deserves your support.

11 Thank you.

12 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you. Appreciate it.

13 Next.

14 MR. GALLO: Mayor Foster and members of the
15 council, my name's Bret Gallo. I'm a seventh district
16 resident of Long Beach. I'm here to express my support of
17 SCIG and my opposition -- strong opposition of R21 that is
18 being proposed tonight.

19 I have read the resolution myself being a
20 resident of the -- of the neighborhood, and from what I
21 read, SCIG is 17 times cleaner than what the port's
22 cleaner action plan is, so cleaner air overall, it sounds
23 good to me. By operating with the electric trains and
24 green technology, SCIG -- it's an improvement.
25 I've driven by the site. I've seen the truck yard. I'm

1 saying wow, okay, they're implementing electric trains to
2 get rid of all these ugly trucks. I mean either way it's
3 going to be an ugly eyesore and create some kind of
4 pollution but this is going to be cleaner.

5 The resolution also states that zero emissions
6 have not been looked over in the report but from what I
7 read, they have been looked over and they're not feasible,
8 they can't do it right now. So I say okay, this is a good
9 step forward, this is a green project, it's not perfect
10 but let's not let perfect be the enemy of the good. This
11 is a good project overall.

12 As far as the job creation, I've seen 1500 jobs
13 over -- per year for the next three years, 23,000 --
14 22,000, excuse me, jobs -- indirect jobs after the project
15 is done. With unemployment where it is right now, I don't
16 see how -- how anybody can oppose that job creation in the
17 city.

18 Also the false assertion that 1200 jobs are
19 going to be lost in this project, I don't see that. I
20 mean the jobs -- where are the jobs going to go. From
21 what I know, most of them are truck drivers, they're all
22 independent contractors, they are not employees of these
23 truck companies. These trucking companies are going to be
24 relocated. These jobs are going to stay in the community
25 and I'm all about keeping the jobs here. We don't want to

1 lose any jobs, of course not.

2 Bottom line, I'm a lifetime Long Beach resident,
3 I'm a voter, I'm a homeowner, I have two kids, a
4 two-year-old and a seven-month-old, I think it's going to
5 clean the air up in my area so I'm telling you guys please
6 vote let's clean the air up.

7 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

8 Next, please.

9 MS. DAVIS: Good evening. My name is Joann
10 Davis. I'm a resident of Long Beach and I'm currently the
11 chairman of the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce. We
12 represent 1100 businesses in and around Long beach. We
13 also live, shop and work in Long Beach.

14 The chamber is a strong supporter of the BNSF
15 Southern California International Gateway project for many
16 reasons. Creating jobs and reducing health risks are key.

17 The project creates jobs at a time when our city
18 desperately needs them. We currently have a 13.4 percent
19 unemployment rate in Long Beach and we need to get our
20 residents back to work. The draft EIR found that the
21 project reduces cancer risks for our residents, a goal we
22 all share. The project will allow containers to be loaded
23 onto rail just four miles from the docks rather than the
24 24 miles and it will eliminate more than one point five
25 million truck trips from the 710 Freeway each year

1 reducing congestion and improving air quality, and we all
2 support taking trucks off the 710.

3 The chamber urges the City of Long Beach to more
4 thoroughly consider the benefits of this project and not
5 base tonight's decision on assertions that have not
6 undergone the same thoroughness of study upon which the
7 DEIR results were based. If the city has or would like
8 additional information, it is appropriate to submit
9 questions and allow the lead agency to respond.

10 Thank you for your time. I appreciate the
11 opportunity to speak.

12 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Ms. Davis, appreciate
13 it.

14 Next, please.

15 MR. MARQUEZ: Good evening. My name is Jesse
16 Marquez. I'm a Los Angeles city resident in Wilmington.
17 I'm also executive director of the Coalition for a Safe
18 Environment that has memberships in over 25 cities, most
19 of them here in the harbor area.

20 I want to compliment councilmembers Johnson and
21 Gabelich for their honesty and integrity for supporting
22 this type of venture because the fact they've done their
23 homework.

24 Both the Long Beach and the Los Angeles Harbor
25 communities have for ten years asked both ports to look

1 for within their port title lands properties lands for
2 their continued growth and they have refused to do so. We
3 have identified locations where they can build intermodal
4 facilities and they refuse to accept them.

5 We have identified the logistics of a facility
6 which is over 300 cars and 300 acres of a car lot that can
7 be put into two-, three-, five-, seven-story car parking
8 structures and free up land there and there's rail there.
9 We brought up the pier S as a potential intermodal
10 facility, with the Port of Los Angeles we brought up the
11 pier 500, which isn't even developed yet, so we have
12 future growth into that area. But if you read the BNSF,
13 the Port of L.A. DSSR, what it states in there is that
14 there is no other location that you can build an
15 intermodal facility and they stated that pier S in any
16 configuration cannot be made into an intermodal facility.

17 But if any of you read the pier S EIR, which
18 comments were due this past Friday, it states in there
19 that their preferred project will include an intermodal
20 facility there along with the containers and then to
21 accommodate the longer train length it adds that that pier
22 T will be added to it and the Y will be modified to allow
23 the longer trains, so it can be done.

24 If you looked at that same EIRs, which is the
25 other handout I gave you regarding the Alameda corridor,

1 it tells you that it was opened in 2002, can carry 150
2 trains per day and this year it's been approximately 36
3 trains per day which is 24 percent at capacity, the
4 original crises to build this facility.

5 If we look at technologies, the ports in all of
6 the EIRs are not the most efficient, are not the most
7 optimized as they claim to be. You've heard about on-dock
8 rail, near-dock rail. What is the most efficient? What
9 is the most efficient is what's at the Port of Stockton
10 and other ports throughout the world where the rail is
11 actually built on the same side as the ship so the ship
12 unloads directly to the rail. That's not what you're
13 doing. It has to be dropped to a truck, dropped to the
14 ground and moved another two or three times.

15 American Maglev Train Corporation has proposed
16 building a Maglev train demonstration for the last four
17 years free to demonstrate that it is a zero emissions
18 technology and a low noise technology. What more do you
19 want for free? I have ridden on it, it works. Vision
20 Motor Corp has built a zero emissions truck. We support
21 that as well.

22 Thank you very much.

23 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

24 MR. DE ANDRIA: Honorable Mayor and city
25 councilmembers, my name is Brian de Andria and I am

1 president of Century Villages at Cabrillo. Century
2 Villages at Cabrillo is the nonprofit organization that
3 owns, develops, manages and serves as steward of the
4 26-acre Villages at Cabrillo campus at Long Beach.

5 Now nearly 15 years after the redevelopment of
6 the formal naval housing site, CVC is home to more than
7 1,000 individuals, including families and children, many
8 of whom were previously homeless. CVC is proud to
9 collaborate with the 15 different nonprofit and government
10 agencies that operate within our campus. These include
11 the Bethune Transitional Center, Long Beach Unified's
12 homeless education program, comprehensive child
13 development and affordable child development facility that
14 serves more than 80 children at any point in time, and
15 other organizations such as U.S. Vets, the service
16 provider to the more than 550 veterans that call CVC home,
17 Path Ventures and Catholic charities, among others.
18 Collectively our mission is to end homelessness by
19 providing those in need with a safe, supportive, dignified
20 and healthy environment in which they may overcome
21 obstacles, regain independence and achieve their highest
22 potential.

23 CVC is located directly adjacent to the proposed
24 SCIG facility on the east side of the Terminal Island
25 Freeway. As the stakeholder most directly and immediately

1 impacted, I am here this evening to voice our primary
2 concerns about the SCIG project and it's proposed
3 mitigation as outlined in the draft EIR. First, the
4 notice of preparation.

5 Since the time the NLP was filed in 2005 and the
6 environmental base line established there have been
7 significant, unmistakable changes to the composition of
8 the Villages at Cabrillo campus. This includes the
9 completion of a family commons at Cabrillo, CVC's
10 permanent support of housing development which the City of
11 Long Beach financially supported, and is now home to some
12 300 family members. This development resulted in a
13 population increase of more than 41 percent.

14 In addition, the long planned family shelter
15 development, a new shelter complex, is scheduled for
16 completion this month. This new facility will serve
17 approximately 100 more individuals per year than are
18 currently being served by the existing shelter on site.
19 The NLP, now six years old, ignores each of these
20 developments and the more than 400 incremental sensitive
21 receptors that they house.

22 Traffic. With future truck traffic to the SCIG
23 site anticipated to exceed 5500 trips per day, CVC is
24 highly concerned about the proposed access to the site and
25 its impact on our 1,000 residents and many staff members

1 that work at the Villages at Cabrillo. As proposed,
2 northbound TI truck traffic will exit the freeway on the
3 PCH cloverleaf that empties onto San Gabriel Avenue, the
4 only ingress and egress to our campus. The high volume of
5 traffic onto PCH west will surely create queueing and
6 idling, thereby severely impacting our campus entry and
7 generating additional emissions at the foot of our campus.
8 Unfortunately this intersection was not evaluated by the
9 draft EIR and as such overlooks a significant yet fully
10 avoidable impact. We also have concerns about air quality
11 and noise.

12 In summary, CVC acknowledges the need for the
13 SCIG project. However, we do not believe the project's
14 impacts were sufficiently studied or adequately mitigated,
15 and we urge the City Council this evening to consider the
16 magnitude of this project and its lasting impacts on our
17 campus and that you express your concerns to the Port --
18 excuse me, to the Los Angeles Harbor Department as
19 purported by the CEQA process.

20 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you very much.

21 MR. DE ANDRIA: Thank you.

22 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

23 Next, please.

24 MS. KNIGHT: Honorable Mayor and members of the
25 council, I am here to support --

1 MAYOR FOSTER: We need you to identify yourself.

2 MS. KNIGHT: I'm Evelyn Knight, and I'm here
3 today -- tonight representing the interfaith of greater
4 Long Beach interfaith community organization and I'm
5 speaking this evening representing the members of the West
6 Long Beach faith community.

7 We are in support of Councilman James Johnson
8 and Rae Gabelich's initiative to be concerned about
9 this -- this project that's going to be developed. We are
10 opposed to the proposed rail yard next to our community.
11 From our faith traditions, we are called on to stand with
12 people for justice.

13 How is it just that 5,000 diesel trucks and 16
14 trains pulling diesel locomotives will come to our
15 community today? How is it just that a community with
16 some of the dirtiest air in the region is facing not one
17 but two huge rail yards? How is it just that the Port of
18 Los Angeles can put a rail yard next to schools but school
19 districts would never be allowed to build new schools next
20 to rail yards? How is it just that as we learn more about
21 the dangers of diesel exhaust, especially ultrafine
22 particulates, public officials are considering allowing
23 the rail yard to bring thousands of diesel trucks and
24 locomotives to our community each day for the next 30
25 years? We -- how is it just that the port is allowed to

1 spread like a cancer into our neighborhoods when they can
2 develop systems and technologies to assemble trains at the
3 ports, not in our neighborhoods? How is it just to
4 require 1,200 people currently working at the proposed
5 site to leave so 450 people can take their place? We want
6 to put people to work building rail yards but they need to
7 be at the port.

8 It is just to take the time to develop and
9 examine alternatives to load containers directly at the
10 ports. It is just to provide our residents alternatives
11 to losing their health and clean air for more polluting
12 goods movement.

13 Thank you.

14 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Ms. Knight. Thank
15 you.

16 Next, please.

17 MS. SMIDT: Good evening, Mayor Foster and
18 members of the City Council. My name is Elizabeth Smidt,
19 and I'm a Long Beach resident, voter of the seventh
20 district and mother of two small children.

21 I am here tonight in support of the Southern
22 California International Gateway, Scig, project and I ask
23 you to reject memorandum R21 that proposes the City of
24 Long Beach oppose the project. I have read the resolution
25 R21 and find it to be inaccurate and misleading.

1 The SCIG project will actually be an
2 environmental improvement while providing much needed jobs
3 in our community. The draft EIR determined that SCIG is
4 17 times cleaner than the port's clean air act action plan
5 standard. Again, with all the green technologies that
6 BNSF has committed to, the project will be an
7 environmental improvement. Those stating otherwise have
8 simply not read the document or chosen to ignore the
9 facts; one of those is that cancer risks will be reduced
10 with the project.

11 SCIG will create thousands of new direct and
12 indirect jobs in the region and with unemployment as bad
13 as it is in our local community, that is a great aspect of
14 this project. Every day I see neighbors in West Long
15 Beach who are unemployed, struggling and losing their
16 homes. Let's stop foreclosure notices of our friends and
17 neighbors that are being received and create jobs and
18 clean the air at the same time. This project does both.
19 Again, I'm a West Long Beach homeowner, voter, mother of
20 two, and I want my elected officials to exercise their
21 leadership and their policy. Resolution R22 is
22 inaccurate, nonfactual and just plain wrong. Let's not
23 bend to the loud activists, most of whom get paid to fight
24 against every project that comes down the pike. As long
25 as they are making paychecks, they don't care if anyone

1 else is. I support the SCIG project and I ask you to
2 reject resolution R21.

3 Thank you.

4 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you very much.

5 Next, please.

6 MR. PALIDO: Good evening, honorable Long Beach
7 City councilmembers. My name is Ricardo Palido. I'm a
8 friendly resident next to door to your neighbor here,
9 Carson City, a former vice president for the planning
10 commission, social justice founding member over in St.
11 Philomina, and also with the Coalition for a Safe
12 Environment as well as an activist here. Totally against
13 what that other lady just said, shame on her because she's
14 probably the one bought off and getting paid the most. I
15 will say what I would like to say on my behalf, I have my
16 First Amendment rights so don't tone me down there.
17 First of all, I would like to say the railway yards belong
18 in the port, not in our neighborhoods, stop rail yards
19 extension, stop BNSF, which really stands for the acronym
20 of bad neighbors stealing from our families, new rail
21 yards, and stop UP rail yards expansion. This is going to
22 be for the great Councilman Rae and for the great
23 councilman James, we'll get you another copy. For the
24 record I hope you frame them and put them in your offices
25 because it will be historic times when you all pass this

1 because you will be sending the message to the whole west
2 coast and to the greater United States of America that we
3 will no longer tolerate people coming in and raping and
4 terrorizing our communities with projects because the
5 economic times are really bad, as you heard, and think
6 it's time for them to expand so they can reap and tend to
7 thousands of years -- hundreds of years, excuse me, ahead
8 of us. Shame on them. I agree with what the council said
9 about job killing. You're killing great job programs that
10 we have right here with Cal Cartage and with L.A. Grain.
11 I also agree with the Councilman James that talked about
12 the neighborhoods. There's 15 to 20 that have not been
13 identified on your DEIR that are along the corridor there.
14 The Alameda corridor is underutilized, as Jesse Marquez
15 said very diligently, and the site location is the wrong
16 spot.

17 Councilman James said it very clearly too, and
18 so did the councilwoman, about the 5500, I think, more
19 trips. Just think about all that idling, somebody
20 mentioned it earlier, and queueing up. All of that can be
21 a black eye for you guys right here in the midst of your
22 community it's going to be even worse when you start
23 realizing on a hot summer day what did we create here, a
24 monster. And shame on yous if you think it's going to
25 create and help out your port because it's going to make

1 it look uglier and it's going to worsen the whole corridor
2 from Long Beach to L.A.

3 And we will speak to the good mayor over there
4 in L.A. and to the Port of L.A. people too to wise them
5 up, if you will, because this is time that we take heed to
6 our neurological diseases that are out there for our
7 children because of the environment and the effects of the
8 pollution and to the asthma and the respiratory problems
9 and to the rest that is happening to us as we get older,
10 especially all of us over here in the dices, you know what
11 I'm talking about. It's hard to breathe sometimes and
12 think about why. And we have innovations, you heard about
13 Maglev. You heard about the zero emissions. Put those
14 demonstration projects to work and you'll see the
15 differences that we could be making.

16 I have here a fact sheet that has 19 points --

17 MAYOR FOSTER: You need to conclude,
18 Mr. Palido --

19 MR. PALIDO: Yes, sir.

20 MAYOR FOSTER: -- now.

21 MR. PALIDO: -- 19 points now that I'm going to
22 put in for the record and I'd like you to make sure that
23 we all know that we salute the great --

24 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, you're done.

25 Next, please.

1 MR. SANTAILIAN: Good evening, Mayor. My name
2 is Peter Santailian, and I'm here as a delegate to the
3 Southern California District Council of Laborers
4 representing over 35,000 members, active and retired, a
5 lot of which live in the City of Long Beach and
6 surrounding areas including Wilmington where this project
7 is going to be located. Respectfully I encourage and urge
8 the City Council to reject the proposition that's being --
9 the proposal that's being proposed here by City Council
10 members. This project -- this company is jobs badly
11 needed in our area and I'm going to address one thing and
12 one thing only to give the others an opportunity to speak.
13 Transportation.

14 Let's take trucks off of the 710. How many of
15 us have sat on that 710, 2:00 to 7:00 standstill idling,
16 pollution. This project allows trucks to take a shorter
17 route, number one, on a designated truck route that they
18 will have GPS system installed to make sure that they're
19 in full compliance and the company has proposed clean
20 technology, technology some of which doesn't exist. I
21 encourage you to reject the proposal and I encourage you
22 to stay out of this and make the comment as Mr. Johnson
23 has made at the public hearings that he's attended.

24 Thank you.

25 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

1 Next, please.

2 MR. LAFARGEREN: I'm Bob La Fargeren, laborers
3 Local 507. I represent over a thousand laborers and we
4 represent the laborers here in Long Beach.

5 For starters, you know, everybody takes their
6 little shots at everybody. Everybody that wants to get
7 the project built, stand up. Okay.

8 The young lady that was more or less reprimanded
9 or the guy just kind of put her down, I'll tell you one
10 thing, I think she was telling the truth. I've seen a lot
11 of projects over here like the L and G project, a lot of
12 good jobs get shot down that are jobs. Okay. We've got
13 people -- we go to Gateway, Pacific Gateway to get people
14 to go to work, we just had a -- an open enrollment this
15 morning to get some knew apprentices out here. We got
16 some people that came from the -- WyoTech, people here in
17 Long Beach to get them jobs. Okay. We can train them, we
18 can do all that stuff but if you don't break the money
19 loose for these jobs and get the jobs on the table,
20 there's no place for them to go.

21 Now you're worried about crime and everything
22 else in this area, what are they going to do? How are
23 they going to make a living? Everybody that's -- a lot of
24 these people that are complaining are the same people that
25 are saying, you know, they're shipping the jobs overseas,

1 damn president, damn this guy, damn that guy. You got a
2 chance right now to put some money in some members'
3 pockets, some workers' pockets, some people here from Long
4 Beach, let's get it done.

5 MAYOR FOSTER: Next, please.

6 MR. FOSS: My name is Rick Foss. I'm a business
7 representative for the sheet metal workers of Southern
8 California. We represent seven counties excluding Ventura
9 County and San Diego County.

10 Currently I want to speak on four items why I
11 feel that the Long Beach City Council should not approve
12 this recommendation 21, I believe they should oppose it.

13 One is the clean air, okay? We are -- BNSF is
14 presenting to you technology, trucks, trains to be 17
15 times cleaner than the standards that we require, okay?
16 For me this is very important. At 18 years old my father
17 passed away from asthma, okay, died in the front door of
18 our house, so anything that has cleaner air to me because
19 we need to embrace it, it's coming. If we don't embrace
20 the cleaner air, we're fooling ourselves, so I support it
21 personally.

22 Second, I've been driving metropolitan Los
23 Angeles area traffic for 23 years. Anywhere you can
24 reduce traffic in the metropolitan area, I support it.
25 Number three, I'm a business representative and I

1 represent 6,000 sheet metal workers, some that are
2 retired. In Long Beach there's 200 members but I look
3 beyond that. I don't only look at the members, I look at
4 the families that are suffering and struggling right now.
5 Some are losing their homes, some are losing their cars,
6 and to be honest with you, the most important is some have
7 lost their families because they're unemployed at this
8 time. So when I speak on behalf of sheet metal workers, I
9 speak on behalf of their families too because that's what
10 hits me.

11 And number four, with the Panama Canal
12 expansion, if the Port of Los Angeles and Port of Long
13 Beach does not capitalize on the opportunities that's
14 presented to them and contain this cargo and shipping it
15 from here, we're losing out, another city or another port
16 will.

17 With that, thank you.

18 MR. LOPEZ: Good evening. My name is Raymond
19 Lopez. I live here in Long Beach for 36 years and I
20 support the program, the project, and local 507.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Lopez.

23 Next.

24 MR. FORD: Honorable Mayor, members of the
25 council, my name is Mike Ford. I live within the project

1 area.

2 Before I start, I wanted to state that I mean
3 nothing personally offensive to either of the
4 councilmembers that introduced this resolution. I am
5 vehemently opposed to it but I also appreciate that you
6 have a position and a responsibility to your constituents.

7 Having said that, my introduction to SCIG
8 was when two ladies came around my neighborhood in August
9 prior to the release of the DEIR. Apparently they wanted
10 to make me one of those 1800 signatures. Not one thing
11 that they said was true, not one.

12 When I asked them about it, whether there would
13 be an offsetting reduction in traffic on the Long Beach
14 Freeway to partially offset the -- the presumed increase
15 going the other way, they said that no.

16 I've done my own research since that time. I've
17 done the research on Maglev. The technology does not
18 exist anywhere in the world for heavy freight movement,
19 nowhere. There are 22 Maglev projects across the country.
20 Not one of them is a heavy lift project. As a matter of
21 fact, they're 40 percent lighter than traditional commuter
22 rail because they can't handle the weight.

23 On top of that, I've attended several meetings
24 and -- and I was extremely offended that rather than
25 dealing with the facts, the opponents of the projects are

1 still resorting to scare tactics. The gentleman from
2 CFASC put out a flier the day before the meeting. It has
3 an outright lie on it saying that SCIG is going to lower
4 property values in the neighborhood.

5 Folks, I'm a former senior appraiser with the
6 Treasury Department, Large Business and International
7 Division. Any damage to real estate values happened a
8 long time ago. Nothing happening on the other side of
9 that freeway short of hydrogen explosions is going to
10 reduce property values in that neighborhood, and I've got
11 the parrot analysis studies to prove it, unlike the
12 gentleman from CFASC who is simply relying on profiles
13 that people mailed to him without verification, per his
14 own words.

15 I am angered that deception has to be used on
16 something this important. At the Silverado Park meeting
17 we had an attorney or somebody identifying himself as an
18 attorney for NRDC suggesting that a viable argument might
19 be that of racial injustice. Now in my neighborhood I'm
20 the minority and I can tell you there is nothing about
21 this project that -- that even smells a hint of racial
22 injustice. The land use is high or heavy industrial use,
23 that's what the project is. People who build schools next
24 to it should have kept that in mind.

25 Thank you very much.

1 MAYOR FOSTER: Mr. Ford, appreciate it, thanks.

2 MR. MAYORGA: Hello. My name is Andrew Mayorga,
3 and I had a big old beautiful speech written out but that
4 was five hours ago so I'm going to be real quick.
5 I just -- I just want to say for those councilmembers
6 opposing this, I understand where you're coming from but
7 you also understand where we're coming from. We support
8 this project. I'm from the laborers Local 507. I'm here
9 on we behalf of our membership.

10 But I just think it should be brought to light
11 that those that are opposing, especially some of the
12 gentlemen that are real sharp and want to frame all this
13 and that and give it to you, they were part of the same
14 ones opposing L and G. They didn't want L and G in the
15 port and it's like it's always something else.
16 I feel you guys have probably one of the tougher jobs of
17 anybody to make these decisions, I guess that's why we
18 elect you, but someone's not going to be happy. We need
19 to clean up the port, it needs to happen. There's
20 obviously going to be people affected but it's
21 unfortunately that they live where they live but like I
22 said in one of the other hearings that we knew when we
23 bought in Long Beach we live in a port city, we've got to
24 live with the port and I ask you to support this project
25 and oppose resolution 21.

1 Thank you.

2 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

3 MR. ROBINSON: Mayor and councilmembers, my
4 name's Dwight Robinson with Los Angeles Harbor Grain
5 Terminal, and we, the employees of Los Angeles Harbor
6 Grain Terminal, respectfully ask you to oppose the
7 Southern California International Gateway project, also
8 known as SCIG, in its current state due to the net job
9 loss that will result from it, and we ask that you support
10 the memorandum by council members Gabelich and Johnson.

11 Our company, Los Angeles Harbor Grain Terminal,
12 has been operating a grain handling business in the port
13 since 1959. My wife's grandfather started the business
14 way back when starting to do business with Japan shortly
15 after World War II as we were trying to help rebuild that
16 country.

17 We currently employ about 100 people. The vast
18 majority of those employees live in Long Beach, they are
19 Long Beach residents. Most of us worked for the company
20 for more than a decade. Some of us have been employed
21 since the early 1970s. At this point even though I'm
22 slightly graying I'm not one of them. Additionally, a
23 significant portion of our vendors are Long Beach based
24 small businesses that have come to rely on our steady and
25 consistent patronage.

1 Los Angeles Harbor Grain Terminal handles grain
2 and grain byproducts that are exported to Asia and ship
3 roughly one billion pounds of grain annually on a small,
4 little five-acre piece of land. There are no other
5 businesses like ours in the ports of Long Beach or Los
6 Angeles yet agricultural exports are one of the fastest
7 growing sectors of the import/export industry right now
8 and the Port of Long Beach attends many of our industry
9 conferences trying to lure more and more grain exporters.
10 But if our business ceases to exist, which if we're forced
11 to move it will because there's no location for us at this
12 point. That opportunity is going to go away. The jobs
13 will go away, they don't move. We don't have truck
14 drivers that are working for us. We have people that are
15 actually moving goods, getting them to Asia, and we're
16 moving food products. We're helping feed the world. Like
17 I said, one billion pounds of grain. Over a six-,
18 seven-year period of time now we've fed about a pound of
19 grain to practically every human on the face of the earth.
20 That's what we do, that's our business, and we're gravely
21 concerned by -- that that draft EIR does not address the
22 relocation of our long-standing business. We're deeply
23 disheartened by that. In fact it merely states in the
24 draft EIR that it is assumed we will find another suitable
25 location as part of our standard business operation.

1 That's not the case, absolutely not. We've been at the
2 same site since 1984. They moved us before, they
3 relocated us before. We want them to relocate us again.
4 Again, we respectfully ask that you consider our jobs and
5 the jobs of our vendors and oppose the SCIG project until
6 such time that the EIR addresses the relocation of our
7 business.

8 Thank you very much for your time and
9 consideration.

10 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

11 MR. CASTILLO: Good evening, ladies and
12 gentlemen. My name is Eduardo Castillo. I am a resident
13 of Wilmington and work for Cal Cartage Company which is in
14 danger of being destroyed by the SCIG project.

15 On November 16th meeting I spoke about why it is
16 a horrible idea to bring yet another source of pollution
17 to our backyard. Since my opinion from that day is
18 already on record, I will not repeat myself today.
19 Instead, I will focus on my personal experience. I will
20 share with you what it is like to have the railroad as my
21 neighbor.

22 My -- my home is half a block down from the
23 railroad tracks and this is where my night -- my nightmare
24 begins. The train never takes a break. This is a 24/7
25 operation, 365 days a year. This is what I see and what I

1 hear, locomotive engines pulling dozens of railroad cars
2 at a time going back and forth, back and forth holding up
3 traffic for as long as 45 minutes at a time. Red lights
4 continually flashing, the annoying bell ringing, whistle
5 blowing from the moment the engine starts at the very high
6 volume, the screeching sounds of metal against metal when
7 the operator applies the brakes, take-offs at such a rate
8 of speed that the ground shakes so violently to the point
9 that everyone in my house trembles.

10 I don't understand how such a powerful company
11 is willing to spend millions of dollars to displace
12 companies like Cal Cartage and many others yet it is not
13 willing to spend a few thousand to keep up the property
14 that they already use in Wilmington.

15 Specific example is the railroad tracks from L
16 Street to Anaheim Street. This section is a mess. It
17 suffers from poor lighting, ugly graffiti, debris covers
18 every square foot. It's not uncommon to find a dead body
19 along those infamous tracks. Please do check the police
20 records.

21 It is my experience that the rail company has
22 failed miserably to prove to be a worthy neighbor.
23 Thank you.

24 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Castillo.

25 Next, please.

1 MR. CORNELL: Good evening, Mayor Foster, Long
2 Beach City councilmembers and everyone in attendance. My
3 name is Ronnie Cornell. I'm a resident of Long Beach.
4 I'm currently employed as a yard goat driver at Cal
5 Cartage. I've been with the company for the past 17
6 years.

7 BNSF promised employment to approximately 400
8 Long Beach residents where in reality Cal Cartage
9 generates jobs for one to 2,000 workers, therefore, over
10 1,000 jobs will be lost if the BNSF project proceeds.
11 BNSF projects will increase air pollution which causes
12 lung and heart disease, asthma, cancer and respiratory
13 problems. Cal Cartage believes in clean air. Cal Cartage
14 was the first company to convert to using clean burning
15 energy fuel in its trucks, yard goats and forklifts. As a
16 result, Cal Cartage has received many awards for
17 contributing to clean air.

18 Mayor Foster, city councilmembers, once again,
19 thank you for your time.

20 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you. Appreciate that.
21 Next, please.

22 MR. RAMIREZ: Good evening. My name is Jesus
23 Ramirez. Mayor, Long Beach City Councils, my thing is
24 that not all the Cal Cartage people are opposed to this
25 project, we just don't want to lose our job. You know,

1 they're talking about progression, yeah, everybody wants
2 to progress but why stop people that are already
3 progressing right now. I just bought my house a few
4 months ago and I'm in terrible right now thinking what
5 would happen if you -- the SCIG project goes on. Please
6 don't take my job or the job of my fellow workers at Cal
7 Cartage and our neighbors, please. Look into it. Like I
8 say on the last meetings we were called a dirty trucking
9 company. We're not a dirty trucking company. They have
10 brand new trucks, L and G yard goats. We have everything
11 that we're supposed to have. Like I say, I'm not against
12 progress but I just don't want progress to stop me or my
13 fellow workers.

14 Thank you for your time.

15 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Ramirez.

16 MR. GONZALEZ: Good evening Mayor, councils. My
17 name is Enrique Gonzalez and I also work for Cal Cartage,
18 and I've been there for over 15 years.

19 And I want to let you know that the SCIG project
20 will not help Wilmington or Long Beach because it will not
21 create more permanent jobs. The truth is that in the near
22 future most of us will be unemployed. This project will
23 take over a thousand of jobs away, 1,000 I mean, I'm
24 sorry, and only create a couple hundred. Most of the jobs
25 this project will create are only temporary and could be

1 filled by non-local residents. I think that we need to
2 keep our jobs and create more jobs to help our local
3 community. I ask you on behalf of all the employees of
4 Cal Cartage, Three Rivers, L.A. Grain and all those are
5 going to be directly or indirectly affected by the SCIG
6 project so everybody can keep their jobs and have new ones
7 at the same time. Cal Cartage have been good to this
8 community and has helped several families put food on
9 their tables, pay their rent and take care of their
10 children.

11 Also I want to let you know that Cal Cartage has
12 been an eco-friendly company for several years and is
13 running a clean operation both on site and on the streets.
14 But let me end with this: Please consider the other
15 options before putting myself and all my coworkers out of
16 jobs.

17 Thank you.

18 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

19 Next, please.

20 MR. CHEEK: Mayor Foster, Councilmen and
21 Councilwomen, my name is Ron cheek. I'm a Long Beach
22 resident. I live across the street from city hall and I'm
23 here in support of the project and I'm against the
24 resolution that's before you.

25 I'm an environmental engineer. My company makes

1 air pollution control equipment but I'm here representing
2 myself. And the ports are big business, they're very
3 important to Long Beach, to our economy, everything else
4 and they need to become more efficient and they need to
5 compete just like everybody else, the Panama Canal thing,
6 and there's a lot of other ports on the west coast that
7 are trying to get the business and this project kind of
8 reorganizes the whole way that they manage the freight and
9 it all has to flow into the certain location and that's
10 why the siting of this is so important and so difficult
11 and why I am sorry that you're attacking the siting of
12 this -- of this job.

13 This is -- this is a draft EIR. There's
14 mitigations that can be put into this if necessary. I
15 certainly would like to see the businesses that will be
16 displaced to get a fair shake. If we want to put our
17 political force behind that, I'm all for it. But this is
18 a project that I think needs to go forward and I would
19 hope that you would oppose this motion at this time.

20 Thank you very much.

21 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Cheek, appreciate
22 it.

23 Next, please.

24 MR. VALENCIA: Mr. Mayor, councilmembers, good
25 evening. My name's Gilbert Valencia. I'm an employee at

1 the California Cartage Company and many things that I've
2 heard tonight, they all the basically are correct. And I
3 can understand and appreciate the position of the people
4 who are wanting jobs but it kind of defeats the purpose if
5 you lay off or take a thousand people's jobs and give only
6 400 jobs, you know.

7 With these trains what is not mentioned when
8 they bring in these rail cars it's not only pulled by one
9 engine, it's pulled by three or four engines, you know, so
10 the emissions brought in, like I say, when they sit and
11 idle it's for hours, you know, and what you're talking
12 about for the future generation of our children, you know,
13 which Union Pacific already has a rail car right along
14 Highway 130 there where they bring their engines through.
15 Now you're going to add engines of Santa Fe, you know, or
16 you got the park, the high schools, the elementaries, the
17 churches, the university, you know, as far as your
18 emissions would go with BNSF, you know, you're talking
19 about something that don't exist, zero emissions. And if
20 it does come out sometime, you're talking about 15, 20
21 years in the future, you know.

22 California Cartage already volunteered itself --
23 Mr. Curry took the initiative and transferred every
24 equipment on his company and made it L and G, which does
25 exist and it's been in use and active for the past couple

1 years and has already been recognized by awards from
2 several government and things for the clean air, you know.

3 And as far as indirect jobs, well, our country
4 has been built from export/import. For 49 years
5 California Cartage, besides here directly, has built, we
6 say, careers, professions, you know, has had raising
7 families, you know, and indirectly on a daily basis, you
8 know, between companies because we're also a logistics,
9 everything that comes in from the harbor gets broke down,
10 reloaded and trucks from our nation pick up and deliver
11 all of the general merchandise and stuff throughout our
12 nation, so you have thousands of jobs daily, on a daily
13 basis.

14 MAYOR FOSTER: You need to conclude sir, thank
15 you.

16 MR. VALENCIA: Thank you.

17 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you very much.

18 MS. HORN: Good evening, mayor, vice mayor and
19 honorable members of the City Council. My name's
20 Elizabeth Horn. I'm the executive director of Future
21 Ports. We're a membership based advocacy group that
22 represents a broad spectrum of businesses in the
23 California goods movement supply chain and we recognize
24 these ports as regional assets and we want to advocate for
25 balance between economic and environmental stewardship, so

1 I'm here this evening to express Future Ports' support of
2 the BNSF railway SCIG project, and as you've heard, it's
3 an environmentally beneficial project that provides much
4 needed upgrades to maintain the competitiveness of the
5 ports and will result in many local jobs to the area.
6 Two quick points I want to make. The first regarding the
7 loss of jobs that we've heard about. Several Future Ports
8 members who own industrial properties have confirmed that
9 there are millions of square feet of property in the South
10 Bay available for trans loading, and these businesses are
11 extremely competitive so we don't see how a particular
12 street address is necessary to continue operations when
13 other suitable locations are available, so we are
14 confident that jobs associated with tenant operations are
15 not going to be lost.

16 The second point is that this project has
17 gone -- undergone extensive independent evaluation
18 producing a comprehensive draft environmental report. We
19 believe it's inappropriate to take a formal position to
20 oppose this project based on assertions that have not been
21 evaluated by the lead agency as intended within the CEQA
22 process.

23 The CEQA process was designed to encourage
24 public comment and input on projects so we'd like to
25 encourage the City Council to submit your questions and

1 comments in writing, allow the lead agency to formally
2 respond in the final EIR, so we'd like to urge the City
3 Council not to vote in opposition of this important
4 project and to reject the -- the resolution this evening.

5 So thank you very much for the opportunity to
6 address the council this evening.

7 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Ms. Horn.

8 Next, please.

9 MS. GREENWOOD: Good evening, Mayor and members
10 of the City Council. My name is Joan Greenwood. I reside
11 at 2091 San Francisco Avenue the seventh district of Long
12 Beach, specifically the Wrigley neighborhood.

13 At the November 21st meeting of the Wrigley Area
14 Neighborhood Alliance we put before our membership a vote
15 which was announced in advance in our newsletter. We also
16 held several study sessions regarding the draft EIR and
17 the members essentially voted with one abstention to
18 oppose this project on the basis of a flawed health risk
19 assessment which was appendix three of the draft EIR.
20 Most of the comments this evening have been about
21 economics and jobs. I want to bring the discussion back
22 to the fundamental heart of that document which is the
23 health risk assessment.

24 Through my education, training and experience
25 and additional seminar and update work I have skills in

1 conducting health risk assessments, and in reading the
2 health risk assessment in this draft EIR the findings are
3 unsubstantiated. The base line and interpretation of the
4 base line is flawed and as a result, if this document is
5 not scientifically defensible it cannot be legally
6 defensible and therefore it cannot be certified by any
7 responsible lead agency. You can't go back now and redo
8 that entire health risk assessment. And part of the
9 problem is it didn't follow the customary standards that
10 are used by professionals who deal with air toxics and
11 remediation issues.

12 The purpose of CEQA was to bridge the gap
13 between science and politics and somehow the person who
14 wrote this health risk assessment is not the person who
15 truly understood risk assessment and risk management. The
16 document could have been done in much more simple, more
17 understandable but perhaps that would have led people
18 astray.

19 We have many standards and usually what we look
20 at is the air quality standards and what this risk
21 assessment does is try to be an advocacy document for the
22 project. By pointing out what they call regional
23 benefits, totally ignored are the local health impacts,
24 and these are usually addressed by doing a health impact
25 assessment.

1 So you all know me, I've been around a long
2 time. I don't want to have to come in and give you
3 chemistry lessons and how to do a health risk assessment
4 but I will if you have any qualms whatsoever about passing
5 this resolution tonight. In fact I will insist on coming
6 in and giving you a presentation or a workshop on it. So
7 please, support this resolution that has been brought
8 forth by Councilmen Johnson and Gabelich. I know their
9 staffs, I know they studied and they wouldn't mislead you.

10 Thank you.

11 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Ms. Greenwood.

12 MR. TYLEEFI: Mr. Mayor and members of the
13 council, good evening. It's been a long night. My name
14 is John Tyleefi, and Clark has my records of residence and
15 business.

16 You heard a lot of information tonight and I am
17 coming to you from the humane aspect of our community. I
18 am also not only a servant of the city but I am the
19 president of the West Long Beach Association. On behalf
20 of our 38,000 residents in West Long Beach, I stand before
21 you to ask you to support the resolution presented by
22 Councilwoman Rae Gabelich and seventh district councilman
23 James Johnson.

24 To the laborer folks, I, on behalf of the
25 community, provide support for all of you. We support

1 labor. There's a notion out there that the community does
2 not support labor. That is incorrect. We support labor
3 and the jobs that can be received by activities within our
4 local economy.

5 Now the other point I want to make is there was
6 a topic of efficiency. Efficiency is gained when movement
7 of goods globally moves quickly and therefore become
8 competitive. What we have here is if we take this BNSF
9 proposal and place this stuff that's four miles of drayage
10 of trucks back and forth, if we had to consider or
11 consider alternative placement of movements of goods, in
12 this case possibly putting something on dock and so forth
13 and work around that base, we would be able to expedite a
14 more expeditious process whereby the TCUs can be placed
15 directly on the rails and then moved out, we would be
16 extremely competitive in the global market.

17 Yes, of course Panama Canal is coming up 2014, Canada is
18 posturing but in order for us to maintain jobs and
19 maintain a community of safety, of good life, quality of
20 property values and not to hold West Long Beach and its
21 near neighborhoods as hostage for the next lifetime, we
22 have to -- people, please, I beg of you, you must move
23 forward and pass this resolution presented.

24 Thank you.

25 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

1 Next, please.

2 MR. CERVANTES: Okay. My name is Tony
3 Cervantes and I wanted to thank the mayor and the Long
4 Beach City Council for letting me speak tonight.
5 Yes, I am a member of Cal Cartage. On December 18 I will
6 complete 22 years. At Cal Cartage with every paycheck
7 that I receive like everyone else I can be able to pay my
8 rent, my bills and provide groceries for my family and
9 take care of my priorities. And if this decision goes to
10 the BNSF rail to take over the Cal Cartage facility, it
11 would affect around 1,000 lives not counting their
12 families. It would be a big blow to the economy. I
13 believe in this country everyone gets a fair shake but
14 sometimes things don't seem right about this whole
15 situation.

16 You know, also for the record too, Cal Cartage
17 is not a polluter. It's a green environment and it has
18 won several awards including the southern coast air
19 quality management.

20 Thank you for your time.

21 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, appreciate your
22 comments.

23 MR. KETTERING: Mayor, councilmembers, my name
24 is Lon Kettering. I live at 6742 East Manitoba in Long
25 Beach. I've been a resident of Long Beach for 40 years

1 and I work for California Cartage. I've been there now
2 for 46 years and I am the safety coordinator.

3 And we're sitting here and talking about a
4 project and I'm standing here talking about jobs. You've
5 heard these people, these hard working people that are
6 working for California Cartage. They say I've been
7 working for 15 years, 17 years, 22 years. The economy,
8 we're the people that are helping the economy and we have
9 been. And I'm proud to say that I'm one of the few people
10 that started the container freight station in the early
11 1970s and guess what, I started in 1965. What is this?
12 2012, and Cal Cartage is still helping the economy. I am
13 proud that people like councilmembers Johnson, Gabelich
14 came out and put out a beautiful article in the Long Beach
15 Press Telegram about this project.

16 When it first started I thought okay, it's going
17 to come through with a couple rail tracks and they're
18 going to go to the harbor. If you look at that word right
19 there, rail yard, look at it, rail yard, go up to
20 Washington Boulevard and 28 and Sixth Street in Vernon and
21 go look at the rail yard up there and tell me about the
22 pollution, the noise just like you heard before. You
23 haven't heard anything yet until you heard the bells, the
24 horns.

25 I worked with the BNSF. I used to have an

1 account -- a cotton account that came from Texas and I
2 believe that -- I'm sure that we still hold the record for
3 working for more than 580 some rail cars in one month of
4 cotton, yes. We did the trans loading. That's what we do
5 now. We trans load for -- and unload all these big
6 companies. We keep the economy going and I'm telling you
7 right now Cal Cartage will keep it going for more years
8 and we're going to be number one here in California. And
9 every day when I come to work I go down Pacific Coast
10 Highway, I see people walking over the Terminal Island
11 Freeway. I see them coming in by bus. I see them coming
12 from Long Beach here, you know, they're all going to a
13 job, a job at California Cartage. They're not going to
14 unemployment.

15 Thank you.

16 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Kettering.

17 MR. GREENWALD: Good evening. Peter Greenwald,
18 Air Quality Management District. We'd like to summarize
19 AQME staff comments regarding the SCIG EIR that's been
20 released in draft form.

21 We are not today taking a position regarding
22 whether or not the project should be approved. However,
23 we are here to provide information relevant to assuring
24 that an adequate EIR is developed that clearly and
25 completely describes project impacts and presents all

1 feasible mitigation measures for the decision makers on
2 the project to consider.

3 In a nutshell, the draft EIR needs to be
4 improved in a number of respects in order to be adequate
5 to meet these needs.

6 First, regarding the base line, the EIR
7 evaluates impacts by comparing future emissions with the
8 project to emissions levels back in 2005, six years ago.
9 This analysis does not disclose and will not mitigate the
10 impacts of the project because it does not compare future
11 emissions with the project to future emissions without the
12 project, something that's required under these
13 circumstances.

14 For some air quality impacts such as cancer
15 risk, the EIR concludes that the project will duly have
16 beneficial impacts even though data in the appendix shows
17 the project will cause greater health risks in some areas
18 than would occur without the project.

19 Second, a major assumption in the EIR is that the SCIG
20 project will greatly reduce truck trips to the downtown
21 Hobart yard but Hobart will still exist if SCIG is built.
22 The EIR must evaluate whether the capacity that will be
23 opened up at Hobart by building SCIG will be filled with
24 additional domestic freight trucks -- truck trips to
25 Hobart.

1 Third, nitrogen dioxides. The EIR states that
2 the project will cause nitrogen dioxide levels over a
3 broad area that are substantially worse than the federal
4 health standard, indeed many times over that standard.
5 Nitrogen dioxide is associated with asthma and other
6 respiratory symptoms. The EIR also states that the
7 strategies that might mitigate this impact such as zero
8 emission electric trucks are not feasible today. But the
9 issue is not whether or not you can go out and buy a zero
10 emission truck today. The SCIG project will have a life
11 measured in decades.

12 Zero emission technology such as hybrid electric
13 trucks with zero emission range, catenary powered trucks
14 and other -- battery electric trucks can definitely be
15 deployed early in the life of this project, certainly
16 within four years of startup, but only if the port
17 requires them.

18 Fourth, locomotives. The proposal does not
19 implement the clean air action plan goal of 95 percent
20 tier four locomotives. It also apparently would credit
21 locomotive emission reductions anywhere in the four county
22 south coast air basin to meet the rather modest locomotive
23 goals which are included. But if SCIG's approved, the
24 cleanest locomotives should be required right here where
25 the rail yards impacts ours.

1 We have provided these comments and other
2 comments to the lead agency and will provide a written
3 letter soon.

4 Thank you very much.

5 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, we appreciate it.

6 Next, please.

7 MR. WHITE: Thank you, Mayor and councilmembers.
8 My name is Bruce White. I'm the president and CEO of
9 Three Rivers Trucking. I am here tonight to support the
10 recommendation by the two councilmembers and to elucidate
11 some serious issues we have with the EIR. But first I'd
12 like to just describe Three Rivers.

13 Three Rivers employs 200 people full time.
14 Those are real jobs right now. We have health care
15 benefits and retirement for all of them. We ship
16 approximately 40,000 containers worth of perishable
17 produce in the overweight corridor. To put that in
18 perspective, that's about 70 percent of the citrus export
19 crop coming out of the San Joaquin Valley through the Port
20 of Long Beach.

21 One of the issues I have with the EIR is it's
22 both deficient and inaccurate, and during the process of
23 developing this document the authors were both deceptive
24 and callous towards Three Rivers. We were approached at
25 the beginning and told that we would not be harmed. In

1 fact the EIR currently states that we'll somehow magically
2 be kept whole.

3 In truth, two days before the very first public
4 meeting we were informed that that plan had been scrapped,
5 that there were no plans to relocate Three Rivers or to
6 allow us to construct any other buildings effectively
7 killing Three Rivers trucking if this project goes
8 through.

9 So, you know, I'm here to represent 200
10 families. We're a family owned business. We started here
11 in 1987. We buy all our products locally. We've made a
12 multimillion dollar investment in clean technologies. We
13 ship some of the biggest shipper names in all of produce.
14 We're an export company. And I just want to encourage you
15 to -- to support the recommendation and oppose the SCIG
16 project.

17 Thank you for your time.

18 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

19 Next.

20 MR. LAFARGA: Honorable Mayor, extreme --
21 esteemed councilmembers, I'll try to be as quick as
22 possible.

23 This project -- my name's Alex Lafarga. This
24 project, without a doubt, affects a wide cross-section of
25 people, and let me for a minute explain to you how it

1 affects me both professionally and personally.

2 Professionally, I'm a proud member and business
3 representative, labor Local 507, representing over a
4 thousand members in the community. We support this
5 project. We support all jobs projects. I'm also a
6 delegate to the district council supporting laborers from
7 all of Southern California. We also support this project.
8 We support growth.

9 Now personally, I'm also a resident of Long
10 Beach, 733 Terminal, I live in Long Beach. I love Long
11 Beach. I support Long Beach. I want to see this project
12 pass.

13 I'm also an employee in Long Beach. Like I
14 said, I work for Local 507 in Long Beach. I support the
15 growth in Long Beach. I'm a volunteer in the community.
16 I work with Rebuild Long Beach. I care about Long Beach.
17 I want to see it get better.

18 We saw how this -- people brought up how this
19 affects the veterans services. I spent ten years in the
20 Marine Corps. I did three tours overseas during two wars.
21 As a veteran, I support this project.

22 But most importantly, as a resident, I'm also a
23 father. I have a son that I raise in this community. I
24 love my son. I would never do a single thing to see him
25 hurt.

1 That being said, I support this project and what
2 it's going to bring to our community. I feel that this
3 project -- I support this project 100 percent. I support
4 the community 100 percent. On behalf of all the ways it
5 affects me, I oppose this resolution and I support the
6 SCIG project.

7 Thank you.

8 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Lafarga.

9 Next, please.

10 MS. RIVERA: Good evening. My name is Carmen
11 Rivera. This is I live here for 15 years in Long Beach.
12 My family, this is eight brothers, they're my brothers,
13 and six that are diabetic. And my family, this is my
14 mother pass away. My husband three years ago pass away.
15 My sister last year pass away. And me, I am asthma and
16 diabetic. My three grandkids have asthma. My neighbors
17 get the asthma, the cancer.

18 Please, this got to stop. Even necessary pass
19 away more my family, huh? Now thank you very much for
20 very helpful Gabelich and Johnson.

21 Who's my -- Robert Garcia, this is my first
22 district, what happened? Robert Garcia called me please,
23 your vote. My vote is my family now my vote. What
24 happened? Please, stop for my family, no more.

25 Thank you very much.

1 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

2 MR. SKYE: Good evening, Mayor and members of
3 the council. My name is Kobe Skye. My address is on
4 file. I'm a resident of Long Beach. I'm also a member of
5 the board of the Long Beach area Sierra Club and we're
6 here to speak in support of the resolution. Very excited
7 to see councilmembers Johnson and Gabelich working
8 together on this resolution, it's very important for the
9 city as a whole. And I wanted to speak on the issues that
10 haven't been covered so I'll be very brief.

11 Specifically the motion before you is to oppose
12 a project on two specific issues. One is the location and
13 the other is the lack of adequate mitigation measures.
14 It's very clearcut, you heard from the AQMD, we very much
15 trust their perspective, that the impacts from the project
16 were not adequately measured in the EIR. That means that
17 the mitigation is not sufficient. On those grounds that's
18 more than enough reason to oppose the project.

19 Secondly, with the location. Even if they are
20 able to relocate the businesses that are directly
21 impacted, we can't relocate the schools that are going to
22 be impacted. We can't relocate the residents that are
23 going to be impacted. Projects like this belongs in port.

24 I wanted to speak specifically about the
25 alternatives. There was mention about the 710 truck

1 ramps. I don't think that that's an alternative. A good
2 alternative to this project would be fully utilizing the
3 Alameda corridor, electrification of rail and goods
4 movement on dock rail and specifically the Sierra Club
5 support of the grid project. That would be a massive
6 project that would allow goods to be moved very
7 efficiently with no emissions directly from the port and
8 to the locations where the goods are needed, and that
9 project would create a lot more jobs than the project
10 that's being considered today.

11 That brings me to the second point. I'm
12 disappointed to hear the argument about jobs versus the
13 environment. It's a false dichotomy, we know that for a
14 fact. I just would encourage my union brothers and
15 sisters to work with the environmental community to work
16 on jobs like electrification that creates good jobs that
17 don't harm our community, that don't harm the fabric of
18 our city.

19 And lastly, there was a comment made about us
20 being paid to block progress. It's absolutely not true.
21 I'm a volunteer. I've been up since five in the morning
22 and I'm coming here on my own time volunteering to help
23 make this community better. I won't comment about why
24 people who live in that community would want to support a
25 project that the community is seeing will negatively

1 impact their health but we're here to make the community
2 better. We're here to fully support the motion and we
3 thank you.

4 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

5 Next, please.

6 MS. RIVERA: Hi, good evening. My name is
7 Joslyn Bivaro Rivera, and I work with East Yard
8 Communities for Environmental Justice, and we represent
9 the hundreds of residents in West Long Beach that
10 submitted those post cards to you earlier this year, and
11 we're here in support of the motion at hand.

12 There's still a lot of time to ensure that a
13 good alternative is proposed that will accommodate
14 forecast needs on dock where it belongs or at a different
15 location that will have minimum to no impact to local
16 communities. There is no reason to continue to burden
17 local Long Beach community for the benefit of the region.

18 We need the railroads to show that they will be
19 good neighbors and in order to do that they need to clean
20 and green up the current rail yards that they're
21 operating.

22 I applaud the leadership of the Long Beach City
23 Council because they -- earlier this year you also
24 proposed -- you passed a resolution that asked them to
25 include zero emission container movement from the rail

1 yard and the ports but they did not do so in the draft EIR
2 and they're not committing to doing any zero emission
3 alternative which is why your support of this motion is
4 really important today.

5 We believe that the draft EIR is flawed. The
6 traffic forecast for the I710 is different from the ones
7 that the 710 project itself has projected. If there was
8 no additional truck trips on the freeway, there would be
9 no need to expand it and they're currently advocating for
10 like a 14-lane freeway.

11 We are supportive of green, good paying jobs for
12 the local community and also advocates for the children to
13 grow up pollution free and in an environment that is
14 conducive to learning without noisy neighbors next to
15 their schools and homes.

16 I support your motion this evening and want a
17 sustainable 21st century solution to this problem and not
18 last century projects that are bad land use decisions.
19 Thank you.

20 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.
21 Next, please.

22 MR. CABRALES: Good evening, Honorable Mayor and
23 councilmembers. Thank you very much for the opportunity
24 to speak before you tonight.

25 My name is Luis Cabrales. I am deputy director

1 of campaigns at Coalition for Clean Air, an environmental
2 organization that's been working with many of you and with
3 many residents for many years to actually clean the air
4 and modernize the transportation sector in this region.
5 In fact because of our work and the work of a lot of
6 environmental activists like ourselves we have created a
7 lot of jobs for union members, and many of you had the
8 opportunity to work on many of the policies that we have
9 advocated for.

10 Tonight you are in a difficult situation. The
11 motion that councilmembers that Johnson and Gabelich have
12 presented to you really puts you in a awkward situation.
13 Should you support that motion, you will be attacked by
14 conservative media and businesses alike. In fact we've
15 heard from some businesses who spoke earlier about the
16 fact that if -- if you support this motion you would be in
17 opposition of creating jobs. That's not true whatsoever.

18 In fact, there seems to be, like many of the
19 businesses that have been advocating for these project,
20 are interested in getting a piece of the big pie that this
21 investment from BNSF represents, and that's just what it
22 comes to. They don't seem to care about the facts that
23 have been presented regarding the potential in impacts on
24 health, livelihood and even jobs. That's why I think and
25 we think actually that building this rail yard, possibly

1 the largest rail yard in the nation, will not reduce
2 traffic, it will not reduce air pollution. In fact you've
3 heard from the representative from the South Coast Air
4 Quality Management about their opinion on the draft
5 environmental impact report. It's going to have a
6 negative impact on air quality.

7 However, there are many opportunities to create
8 more jobs by encouraging the ports to build at the ports
9 and by doing so you will actually clean the air, you will
10 modernize the ports and you will make them more
11 competitive with east coast ports who are hoping to
12 benefit once the Panama Canal expands. That's why I
13 encourage you to please support councilmembers Johnson and
14 Gabelich.

15 Thank you very much for your attention.

16 MAYOR FOSTER Thank you.

17 Next, please.

18 MS. AMATOLLA: Good evening, Mayor and
19 councilmembers. My name is Amelia Amatolla and I live in
20 the district of my councilmember Steven Neal. I am here
21 as a member of the Communities for Clean Ports and also a
22 multimedia nonprofit called Iguana here in Long Beach.
23 As much as I live in Long Beach, I also -- I'm here on
24 another home that is very close to me, the Pacific. As we
25 meet tonight, many of my brothers and sisters of Tokalau,

1 Kerabas, Samoa, Toma, Tuvatu are meeting in the United --
2 the United Nations conference from Durban, South Africa to
3 plea for a reduce of fossil fuels and emissions.

4 The SCIG project has a direct impact on the
5 direct -- on the connection many of your residents of --
6 of Long Beach have, the Pacific Islander community, and so
7 what -- and so it's about climate change. And so what
8 climate change does is that there is sea level rise which
9 sinks the islands. However, we do not need to go to the
10 South Pacific because Long Beach is also my home. And I
11 say this because of the sinking that we have here in West
12 Long Beach, central Long Beach.

13 And with my brothers and sisters and unions I
14 stand with you but I ask you to ponder that there are jobs
15 that are -- that -- to look at jobs that are sustainable
16 and that underemployment and employment be resolved with
17 such employment. And so also to our union brothers and
18 sisters we are for jobs and many of you who are here are
19 my cousins and relatives but we are for jobs that are not
20 at the expense of our culture and of our land.

21 Thank you very much for serving us. Good night.

22 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

23 Next, please.

24 MR. LYBOL: Good evening. My name is Joseph
25 Lybol, a resident of Long Beach for the last 33 years.

1 Thank you, Honorable Mayor and members of the council. I
2 thank you, councils Gabelich and Johnson, for bravely
3 bringing this up for upon the council tonight.

4 I echo a lot of things that have been said by
5 most of the folks that came up. I just want to put a face
6 and tell you a little story about my family. I raised six
7 kids in west side Long Beach and two of them have grew up
8 with asthma throughout their lives. That's 33 percent of
9 my family. And then add me to it, I've had decreased lung
10 capacity and I'm -- I'm a avid biker over on the west
11 side, so health is a big issue with this thing.
12 I just can't believe adding 5,000 more trucks, trips over
13 on the west side is going to make the air cleaner and
14 going to make my generation -- the generations of children
15 that are going to come up more healthy than my children, I
16 don't understand that. I -- I believe that if you pass
17 this opposition it doesn't say that Long Beach is against
18 jobs, it doesn't say that -- that the council is against
19 progress here on the west side. It just says BNSF needs
20 to go back and look at something better, something
21 cleaner.

22 We do not need to sacrifice my west side
23 community for progress, please, thank you.

24 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

25 Next.

1 MR. ULASZEWSKI: Good evening, Honorable Mayor
2 and City Council. My name's Brian Ulaszewski. I live at
3 1059 East Second Street in the second district.

4 Essentially one of the main issues that we're
5 discussing right now is land use conflicts and mobility
6 adjacencies from the SCIG proposal as it relates to the
7 community the schools and the residents. And quite
8 reasonably so, many of the speakers that are speaking
9 against the project aren't actually speaking against the
10 project, they're speaking against its location.

11 Visual, noise, light and air pollution are all
12 reduced as a distance from the emitter increases from
13 those who are receiving those pollutions. Within the port
14 is probably the best choice for the SCIG location but it
15 lies over the border and perhaps it's out of our control
16 but some of the greatest impacts are from the trucks and
17 trains serving it.

18 While the current SCIG proposal is in L.A., the
19 tracks and roadways leading to them are in Long Beach in
20 fact. Long Beach should ask for better from the SCIG
21 proposal. The City Council can demand better for those
22 improvements taking place in Long Beach.

23 The north track and south track leading to the
24 SCIG facility both come into Long Beach. The PCH-TI
25 Freeway interchange that they're proposing to improve

1 takes place in large part in Long Beach. The storage
2 tracks that they're proposing to use between the Southern
3 California Edison right-of-way and the TI Freeway, which
4 the city owns at that portion 200 feet away from the
5 school, is in Long Beach. The railroad bridge that
6 they're proposing to replace is in Long Beach. These are
7 all items that are going into this facility that take
8 place -- that are proposed to take place in Long Beach.
9 These are things that we have direct control over.
10 Changes to these could reduce potential impacts to the
11 community without affecting operations.

12 This is not a mitigation. This is a project
13 proposal and not one that affects their operation, even
14 better that these port serving infrastructures can be
15 improved regardless of where SCIG ultimately is placed. I
16 would encourage the City Council to ask better from L.A.
17 for SCIG but I would ask the council to demand better for
18 what takes place inside of Long Beach.

19 Thank you.

20 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

21 Next, please.

22 MS. ESQUEVEZ: Hello, council. My name is
23 Georgianna Esquevez. I am a resident of west side Long
24 Beach and I'd just like to voice my opinion against the
25 SCIG project. I don't believe the DEIR is necessarily --

1 doesn't seem very comprehensible how adding 1.5 million
2 trucks would -- going along our west side would actually
3 reduce the air pollution. And I'd just like to note that
4 Cabrillo High School and, what is it, Hudson Elementary
5 School are no more than a quarter mile away. You're
6 exposing children for the entire school day of constant
7 air pollution of those 1.5 million trucks that will pass
8 through there for the entire year and as well those
9 students are also residents of west side Long Beach, so
10 it's a 24-hour exposure of air pollution and also light
11 pollution and noise pollution.

12 I live no more than a block and a half away from
13 the current rail yard that is in west side and I have to
14 say it's a bad experience as a child not being able to
15 breathe as well as when you run, you know, when you're
16 running or anything like that or just imagine that you're
17 a child during P.E. or any other high school student who's
18 trying to train, your lungs are no more -- you're being
19 exposed to so much pollution that it's no more than a
20 quarter mile away.

21 And please, thank you councilman -- councilman
22 and woman that has brought this to the City Council. I
23 would strongly suggest and would hope that you would write
24 the letter opposing the project.

25 Thank you very much and I hope that you do

1 represent the residents of west side Long Beach and not
2 add a permanent scar onto our community. Thank you.

3 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

4 Next, please.

5 MS. TEMPLIN: Good evening. My name's Jane
6 Templin, 623 Rose Avenue, and I support the International
7 Gateway project. I have listened to everybody carefully.
8 I've attended numerous meetings and listened to people and
9 I have some concerns on a number of issues.

10 For one thing, I hear this is a draft and it can
11 be modified if there are issues. All of the major
12 existing businesses seems to have the main problem of just
13 not being relocated, so they're not losing their jobs.
14 And I do not see how passing this resolution addresses the
15 issue of all the existing pollution that is causing the
16 cancers and the asthma and all these other problems that
17 we're hearing about again and again and again from all
18 these people and their families that you're not even
19 addressing that. This is existing pollution that we can
20 have a new project come in that is cleaner, that can be
21 made cleaner and they're asking for zero emission, they're
22 asking for these that don't exist yet but like the one
23 gentleman said, it could be put in there, as it's
24 developed, it's integrated and to me that makes a lot more
25 sense living here and listening to that, and I'm concerned

1 that I haven't heard a single word about mitigating the
2 existing conditions that are causing all these other
3 problems.

4 Thank you.

5 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

6 Next.

7 MR. LOGAN: Hello, Mr. Mayor and members of the
8 City Council. My name is Angelo Logan. I'm a resident of
9 Long Beach in the second district, and I'm also with East
10 Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, and we stand
11 for good jobs and a healthy environment and a healthy Long
12 Beach. And we know that after reading most of the
13 5,000-page draft environmental impact report that this
14 project does not accomplish that but what we believe will
15 accomplish that is working towards a consensus project at
16 the port on dock that will bring good jobs and clean the
17 air and improve our quality of life for Long Beach. So I
18 urge you to join councilmember Johnson and Gabelich in
19 passing this resolution.

20 Thank you very much.

21 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Logan, appreciate
22 it.

23 MS. KARNETTE: Hello, all you friends. My
24 name's Betty Karnette and I live in Wrigley and actually
25 I'm a retired state senator. And I've been through things

1 like this but you guys, this is longer than we spent in
2 Sacramento, I have to tell you. Anyway --

3 MAYOR FOSTER: We try to give real meaning to
4 public participation.

5 MS. KARNETTE: Anyway, but I want to say I
6 really appreciate the concern that everybody has. We all
7 have concerns about our -- our families and our
8 communities and I -- and having represented all of you, I
9 know what it's like. However, and just like in Sacramento
10 or anyplace else, there's rarely a perfect answer to our
11 many problems both environmental and social, and I also
12 know that scientists themselves often disagree.
13 In fact if you would look back in your history, you would
14 find out there were results that were thought to be very
15 harmful in the past and they turned out to be useful and
16 healthful and we're finding think out every day that there
17 are things that are harmful now that we -- that -- that --
18 as well as we thought contributed to our welfare that's
19 really harmful. So even science, facts are facts but
20 interpretations may be different so we --

21 However, we must have been right more times than
22 we were wrong because now we're living to be 80, 90 and
23 even 100, so we must have done something right in some
24 parts of the world. And I think our industrial sector
25 helped us with that by giving us things that made us move

1 forward.

2 And I think that the draft EIR for the present
3 proposal is a step forward. I'm sorry I feel like the --
4 my two friends over here are really sincere but I think we
5 need to go forward because you can change things as you go
6 along, we all know that, and that in a few years and if
7 this project goes through we'll have even cleaner and
8 cleaner air.

9 I've lived here since the '50s and it was
10 terrible. Most of you did too. And it's much better than
11 it used to be. And by the way, my grandfather died and he
12 had asthma but he lived in Kentucky so --

13 The -- you've also heard that construction will
14 bring worse -- that we'll have worse pollution and jobs
15 will be lost but we also heard that jobs -- there will be
16 more jobs. So again, we're in this position, again,
17 there's just no perfect solution.

18 I think this is the question: Is anything ever
19 solved if we don't move forward, and I feel like we must
20 move forward and that's why I support the draft EIR. And
21 I know the nature of democracy is listening to everyone
22 and living with some uncertainty. I think that we will
23 support the project.

24 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, ma'am, appreciate
25 that.

1 If I may, we've been at this for nearly two
2 hours so we're going to end with that young lady right
3 back there and -- then you're the last one because, you
4 know, I know you've been sitting down, we've heard
5 everyone and we're hearing a lot -- a lot of the same
6 repetition so I'm going to ask you to try to be succinct.
7 We've given a lot of time to this, it deserves it but we
8 have other business to conduct so we need to get out of
9 here at least at a reasonable hour, please.

10 MR. FISHER: Good evening, Mayor and City
11 Council. Thank you guys for bearing with me for two
12 minutes and 54 seconds more.

13 So it seems like there should be more --

14 MAYOR FOSTER: Can you identify yourself?

15 MR. FISHER: Yeah, Ben Fisher. I am in the
16 third district. I just missed you, Councilmember DeLong,
17 the other night.

18 So it seems like there should be a more fair
19 alternative providing more distance from the noise and air
20 pollution for your constituents, seems a lot of people
21 spoke about that being in the port. I just wanted to put
22 this in context.

23 The wealthy corporations have externalized the
24 costs upon the working class at a greater and greater rate
25 over the past 30 years. I'd like to petition the

1 passionate group here not to allow powerful corporate
2 interests to continue their strategy of dividing and
3 conquering us. For a long time this has been their method
4 of dis-empowering the people.

5 So there are big corporations on both sides of
6 this battle, don't get me wrong but I'd like to provide
7 some context. This battle is big versus little, big money
8 versus poor, big labor versus family business, the one
9 percent versus the 99 percent.

10 So thank you very much for taking that time.
11 I'll give you the minute and 48 back.

12 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you very much, Mr. Fisher,
13 appreciate it.

14 MR. OXLEY: Distinguished Mayor, City Council,
15 my name's Tom Oxley and I'm a business agent for
16 ironworkers Local 433. And I grew up on the west side in
17 the '50s, right, Mr. Andrews, and endured the smog and
18 the -- and the port, and the port's a lot cleaner today.
19 And before us that's what we have is cleaning up the port
20 still today in 2011, and the SCIG project is a great
21 project. It's 17 times cleaner according to the draft EIR
22 and it's going forward. It's not a piece of the puzzle
23 for cleaning up.

24 To -- to Councilwoman Gablich, I ask have you
25 looked -- been following pier A and the new grain terminal

1 that's going to go in there that directly ships the grain
2 from the midwest directly to overseas? I wonder how
3 that's going to affect L.A. Grain and those jobs and are
4 you opposed to that project for jobs here in Long Beach.
5 But the trucks, one point million, they're going to come
6 out of the port, they're going to run up the 710 Freeway.
7 They're going to come over the 47. They're going to dump
8 off onto Anaheim Street, PCH and Willow. They're going to
9 go by schools, by Cabrillo, by Hudson, and they're going
10 to get on PCH. I know some of you may not travel PCH,
11 Anaheim or Willow. I do and from about 9:00 on it's not
12 one of the three arteries that you want to drive down.
13 The trucks are going to be stopped, they're going to be
14 polluting, they're going to be idling because they're in
15 mass traffic jam. So is the 710 Freeway. So I bypass and
16 I cut down Ocean and go down Alameda to cut across town.
17 The SCIG project is going to fully utilize or hopefully
18 utilize the Alameda corridor, that's what it's designed to
19 do. It's a proven fact that it's cost effective and it's
20 less pollutant to put large shipments on trains per mile
21 and ship it than it is by truck, so --

22 And then the other thing is the real jobs it's
23 going to create for my members who live in Long Beach and
24 every district who are chronically unemployed right now
25 and looking for jobs. But it's also going to create

1 permanent regional jobs throughout the county and
2 throughout the area.

3 Thank you and all of you have a Merry Christmas.

4 MR. HUNTER: Good evening, City Council and
5 Mr. Mayor. My name is Robbie Hunter. I'm the
6 representative for the Los Angeles and Orange County
7 building trades. We represent 140,000 construction
8 workers in both counties, several thousand living in San
9 Pedro Wilmington and Long Beach.

10 You know, I would say Tom was correct, you know,
11 the math of moving one ton of cargo by rail is 360 miles,
12 to move the same cargo by truck is six miles to the
13 gallon, so really the math does speak for itself.
14 The trucking yards that exist on this location at this
15 time are going to be relocated. I believe California
16 Cartage have been offered 7 different locations and -- and
17 that's going to be a part of the settlement. The yard
18 cannot be built unless they're relocated. There will be
19 no loss of jobs. There will be an adding of jobs.

20 The modernization and the capacity of this port
21 is where we all live meaning the shipyard's gone, the navy
22 shipyard, the private yard that was over there is gone,
23 Ford, General Motors, gone, Bethlehem Steel is gone,
24 Kaiser's gone. We have done all these things and never
25 brought a descent job here. Burlington, Northern, Santa

1 Fe, Pacific will bring good jobs. There is no doubt that
2 this is going to move cargo with less pollution. The
3 location for this yard will allow the full utilization of
4 the Alameda corridor. That's what it was built for was to
5 get trucks off the roads and we believe it's vital to the
6 survival of the Long Beach port, the city harbor, so we
7 support this project.

8 We think a better way of really handling this --
9 and I do understand with the two City Council people are
10 looking out for the residents of their area. We think a
11 better way to handle it would be to question the City of
12 Los Angeles and to ask for more data on their
13 environmental report and have input in the process rather
14 than just saying no.

15 Thank you very much.

16 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you. Thank you,
17 Mr. Hunter. I'm just going to guess that you didn't grow
18 up in west Long Beach, I'm just going to guess.
19 Go ahead.

20 MR. THURLOCKER: Good evening, Mayor and
21 councilmembers. My name's Joel Thurlocker, business
22 representative for Local 12 operating engineers. I
23 represent the members that live and work in Long Beach and
24 the surrounding area.

25 Our members have built the breakwater and built

1 the piers that is the Port of L.A. and Port of Long Beach,
2 and we also built the highways.

3 Local 12 supports the draft EIR in it
4 significantly reduces the truck traffic on the 710 Freeway
5 by over 1.5 million. It's not adding traffic, it's
6 reducing traffic by using the rail. It creates over 1500
7 construction jobs during the three-year contract and over
8 14,000 direct and indirect jobs, permanent jobs when
9 they're complete. BNSF, like you said, is -- they're
10 signing a PLA with that that ensures local hire and
11 apprentices that are on its jobs from Long Beach will
12 learn a job that will enable them to have a career and go
13 on and continue to work on the projects throughout
14 California with a living wage and benefits and a pension.
15 Like I said, Local 12 supports it. It also helps clean up
16 the air and we've got to start somewhere.

17 Thanks.

18 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

19 Next, please.

20 MR. ALLEN: Jonathan Allen, reside at 401
21 Crystal Place.

22 In brief, a lot of things were already mentioned
23 that I was about to. I'd like to just separate for a
24 second the conversation between the environment and the
25 company that has been in the ears of two councilmembers,

1 Cal Cartage. Cal Cartage obviously employs about 1200.
2 It conveniently uses that term when appropriate. It calls
3 them independent contractors when they have to prove that
4 they're not employees but let's for now give them the
5 benefit of the doubt that they're employees, okay?

6 So I've got to take the position of being for
7 the rail being built. It's a difficult decision. I think
8 it should be up to the community where they want the rail
9 to be and I'm glad that the last man just mentioned that
10 we're getting over a million trucks off of the highway, so
11 again, it's important to understand --

12 MAYOR FOSTER: Excuse me. Could we have it
13 quiet, please? Just quiet, please. Excuse me. I'm going
14 to have to have you removed if you continue. Officer?
15 That is disrespectful.

16 MR. ALLEN: Thank you. You can speak.
17 I just, again, want to point out that I think Cal Cartage
18 is highly influential with you all and you all should be
19 concerned. You're raising -- trying to raise awareness of
20 the environmental issue but I wouldn't take it too
21 seriously. As mentioned previously a few steps ahead of
22 me, the environmental issue is something that affects the
23 entire ports and is a continuing problem.

24 Again, Cal Cartage, again, needs to pay
25 attention more toward, one, helping it's employees that

1 are here that deserve better pension. I think you tried
2 to mention it briefly, Gabelich, that they are taken care
3 of but they're not and, you know, it's one company that
4 does not allow for unions and I think it's beneficial for
5 them to be in your ear instead of actually letting the
6 employees truly decide what -- and the community what is
7 best for the ports and for Long Beach.

8 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

9 Next, please.

10 MS. SAUNDRA: Good evening, council. I want --
11 my name is Sandra and I live on the west side about 150
12 feet from the current rail yard. I want to thank James
13 Johnson and Rae Gabelich for bringing this forward. I
14 want the people here to know that it was five mothers who
15 didn't speak English and who asked me to join them and we
16 knocked on doors to raise awareness of this issue.
17 I was here a couple of months ago when City Council voted
18 to set an example concerning the bags. We knocked on
19 James' door. I live in that neighborhood.

20 Between the 710 Freeway and the -- and the
21 boundaries of this rail yard are all of seven schools.
22 These schools have been outfitted with clean air filter
23 systems. My home has three clean air systems in it. I
24 have a child with asthma. Ten minutes ago I had to inhale
25 my inhaler.

1 I was here when you all voted to set an example
2 for other cities. We ask these councilmen to set an
3 example to the city of L.A. to say that not in our
4 backyards, not to the neighbors on the west side of Long
5 Beach. People here are concerned about jobs and people
6 here are concerned for various other reasons but I'm here
7 as a citizen of the west side who has seen what the ICTF
8 has done and has refused to do when they said the project
9 was only going to be a nine to five and here we're asking
10 that the City of Long Beach say no to these -- to two
11 railroad projects that are going to go on and affect these
12 neighborhoods.

13 These kids cannot play on the playground. They
14 have to have respirators with them. There are days when
15 they are not allowed out there.

16 My son has just recently reached 18. He had to
17 clean his own room. He said mom, has our house always
18 been this dirty. I said yeah, I just cleaned it for you.
19 So I'm asking that this City Council set an example and
20 tell the City of Los Angeles not in our backyard to our
21 citizens. And again, I want to thank these two councilmen
22 for listening to us because we did knock on doors.

23 Thank you.

24 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Sandra.

25 Next, please.

1 MR. JIMINEZ: Mayor Foster and members of the
2 City Council, my name is Trini Jimenez. I'm director of
3 government affairs with the BNSF Railway. We urge you to
4 reject item 21. The regulation makes broad assertions not
5 based in fact and asks the city to take the position of
6 opposition without the benefit of having submitted
7 concerns during the public comment period and received the
8 responses back from the responsible agency, in this case
9 the Port of L.A. Only after receiving responses to public
10 comment in the final EIR stage of the CEQA process can any
11 individual or entity make a sound decision as to their
12 position on the project. To do so beforehand would be
13 premature.

14 The SCIG project is indeed an example of green
15 growth. It will be the most environmentally friendly
16 intermodal yard in North America and quite possibly the
17 world. It will set a new bar for future intermodal
18 projects.

19 The draft EIR did indeed determine that the SCIG
20 would result in a reduction of cancer risk. The port set
21 a very stringent standard in the clean air action plan
22 that no new project could exceed the risk of more than
23 ten in a million. Well, far from it being higher than
24 ten, the SCIG HRA is a negative 161 which loosely
25 translated is 17 times cleaner than the CAAP plan

1 standard.

2 In building SCIG, BNSF will improve an existing
3 industrial site and replace it with a state of the art
4 facility featuring wide-span electric cranes. Those are
5 zero emission cranes.

6 BNSF has committed to allow only trucks meeting
7 the CAAP standards to service the facility and
8 furthermore, those trucks will never travel north of the
9 PCH off ramp meaning those trucks will not travel the TI
10 stretch of freeway that goes by Hudson School. That is a
11 fact, I am stating it publicly.

12 During the three-year construction phase
13 approximately 1500 jobs will be created and upon
14 completion SCIG will indeed create 22,000 jobs. Those are
15 not our numbers. That was confirmed by an independent
16 study by Global Insight, a very reputable economic
17 forecasting firm.

18 The draft EIR anticipates the relocation of the
19 current tenant businesses at the site. Relocation does
20 not equal termination. Putting a different address, a
21 local address at that, to those businesses will not make
22 those jobs disappear. Those jobs will remain right here
23 in our local economy. They will not go anywhere and to
24 state otherwise is just misleading.

25 As to the on dock argument, believe me, if we

1 could do a hundred percent of our operations on dock we
2 would be thrilled. Over about a six-.year period we
3 maximized our efficiencies to the point where we increased
4 our on dock to about 200 percent. It is actually more
5 cost efficient to do on dock for us. If we could do a
6 hundred percent of our operations on dock we would not be
7 spending half a billion dollars to build a near dock
8 facility. We're not in the business of spending money we
9 don't need to spend.

10 In terms of the CEQA base line, yes, we follow
11 the letter of the law. The NOP was in 2005. We have to
12 follow the letter of the law. It has to be in 2005.

13 Thank you very much.

14 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you, Mr. Jimenez.

15 MR. O'DONNELL: Excuse me, Mr. Jimenez, I have a
16 question for you. With regard to the existing businesses
17 there, what's your level of commitment to them?

18 MR. JIMINEZ: As you know --

19 MR. O'DONNELL: And the background is I've heard
20 a lot of concern from people that are employed at those
21 businesses that they're going to lose their jobs and they
22 seemed very fearful when they were up at that microphone,
23 so what I'd like you to do is speak to that.

24 MR. JIMINEZ: Absolutely. What I can tell you
25 tonight is that we absolutely understand that concern and

1 technically and officially the Port of L.A. is the
2 responsible agency for seeking relocation sites. Having
3 said that, we are committed to working with the Port of
4 L.A. to ensure that the right thing is done.

5 Now all of the -- the two larger businesses, Cal
6 Cartage and Fast Lane, if you read the draft EIR, their
7 relocation is spoken to in that site and relocation is
8 assumed for the other businesses as well. Again,
9 relocating these sites to a local site with a different
10 address will not terminate those jobs. We are committed
11 to working with the port, who is the responsible agency,
12 to find a relocation site to ensure that those concerns
13 are spoken to.

14 MR. O'DONNELL: Okay. How many businesses are
15 there?

16 MR. JIMINEZ: There are two large businesses and
17 I believe a handful of smaller ones. I can get you the
18 exact number by tomorrow.

19 MR. O'DONNELL: So in your conversations with
20 the Port of L.A. where do you feel they are, what do you
21 feel their level of commitment is?

22 MR. JIMINEZ: We've impressed upon the Port of
23 L.A. that it is an important aspect to us that they do
24 everything they can to address the relocation concerns of
25 those folks.

1 MR. O'DONNELL: I think that's a significant
2 concern. I'm sure this entire body shares that concern --

3 MR. JIMINEZ: Absolutely.

4 MR. O'DONNELL: -- and I'd like a little more
5 feedback on that and we'll see how this develops tonight,
6 the conversation, but that's absolutely a priority.

7 MR. JIMINEZ: If you like, councilmember, I can
8 put you in touch with not only our real estate folks but
9 the folks at Port of L.A. that are in charge of that
10 specific issue.

11 MR. O'DONNELL: Thank you.

12 MAYOR FOSTER: Go a little further, Mr. Jiminez.
13 Has there been a location found? I'm just going to give
14 you my impression, okay, because I've been around this
15 issue. I don't think the Port of L.A. has done squat on
16 this to be candid, so --

17 MR. JIMINEZ: Actually --

18 MAYOR FOSTER: I'm just going to give you my
19 impression.

20 MR. JIMINEZ: -- I understand that.

21 MAYOR FOSTER: And while it's a concern and
22 while -- and look, I'm not -- there's a whole host of
23 issues here but I don't -- is there a relocation found for
24 those businesses?

25 MR. JIMINEZ: As alluded to earlier by a few

1 speakers, the fact of the matter is that about 17 sites
2 have been offered to the largest business there and for
3 one reason or another they have found all 17 to be
4 inadequate.

5 MAYOR FOSTER: Maybe they are inadequate.

6 MR. JIMINEZ: It could be, that is certainly
7 possible but that many sites have been offered to them.

8 MAYOR FOSTER: I think what you're hearing from
9 this council is that there's a long way to go on this
10 project and that if it turns -- to be really candid, if it
11 turns out that your company and the Port of L.A. on this
12 and maybe a couple of other issues has really neglected
13 its responsibility, that will be a problem here.

14 MR. JIMINEZ: I can assure you, Mayor, that we
15 will not neglect our responsibility on that issue or any
16 other.

17 MAYOR FOSTER: Really it's not about applause.
18 This is about people's lives here, and someone's building
19 a project that's going to last for decades and no one,
20 whether it's a public agency or a private company, should
21 dismiss somebody as, you know, we assume that they're
22 going to be relocated. No, they need to be relocated.

23 MR. JIMINEZ: Absolutely, Mayor.

24 If I may, submitting those valid concerns to the
25 Port of L.A. in the public comment period will assure that

1 they have to address it in the final EIR.

2 MAYOR FOSTER: You can be sure that that will
3 definitely happen but that's beside --

4 The other part of this is even though L.A. is -- is the --
5 Port of L.A. is the lead agency, you are the project
6 proponent --

7 MR. JIMINEZ: Yes.

8 MAYOR FOSTER: -- and I will be candid with you.
9 You, I believe in most cases, have been a pretty good
10 corporate citizen in the dealings I've had with you --

11 MR. JIMINEZ: Thank you.

12 MAYOR FOSTER: -- I will say that but this is
13 really important. You've got, you know, as much as two or
14 3,000 jobs at stake and these are people -- you heard
15 them, they work -- they work week to week. I don't want
16 the anxiety level to go so high that they think they're
17 going to be out of work because there's no location for
18 them. I think that position's shared here.

19 So I'm not making a judgement on your project.
20 I'm not making a judgment on any of this other stuff but
21 on that one what I have seen so far is that it has not
22 received the attention it deserves, so --

23 MR. JIMINEZ: Thank you.

24 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

25 Mr. Neal.

1 MR. NEAL: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

2 Well, first of all, I'd like to thank all of the
3 residents and stakeholders that came out and spoke
4 tonight. It was a very difficult issue and we get -- I
5 have a potential trucking facility in my district. It's
6 right next to Collin Powell Elementary School. It's a
7 very sensitive issue for our parents and our neighbors, so
8 I do agree there are a number of valid concerns that
9 should be vetted out through this process. However, I'm
10 hearing two very different depictions of this development.

11 We've heard that the project will create a
12 tremendous amount of jobs, both construction and post
13 construction, which we desperately need. But we've also
14 heard that many people, including Long Beach residents,
15 will lose their jobs due to the development.
16 We've heard that this development would take 1.5 million
17 trucks per year off the 710 Freeway passing through my
18 district, which is a good thing. But we've also heard
19 that we will be putting close to two million trucks per
20 year right next to Cabrillo High School and Hudson
21 Elementary School, which is not a good thing.

22 So we've heard tonight that the development will
23 create dangerously high emission levels. However, we've
24 also heard that this development will be cleaner than the
25 existing uses. These are all concerns that have been

1 raised and again need to be vetted out. So I understand
2 that there are concerns raised by several of my colleagues
3 over the issues raised in the original motion. I also
4 understand that the draft EIR hasn't answered everyone's
5 questions. However, before I feel comfortable taking a
6 position in support or against the project, I would like
7 to engage the Port of Los Angeles to better understand
8 this EIR with certainty as it relates to jobs, emissions,
9 job loss, potential on dock locations and therefore I
10 would like to submit a substitute motion.

11 I recommend that the City Council request
12 additional information from the Port of Los Angeles
13 concerning the following five issues of concern: Number
14 one, further explain the EIR conclusion that zero emission
15 technologies are not yet feasible. Number two, provide
16 further analysis of other potential on dock locations for
17 the facility. Number three, provide information about any
18 job loss from relocated tenants or property owners.
19 Number four, further explain and provide data on light and
20 noise impact analysis, and number five, explain the
21 assumptions and selections of the DEIR base line.

22 Secondly, based on the information from the Port
23 of L.A., direct the city manager to communicate to the Los
24 Angeles Harbor Department the City of Long Beach comment
25 period to close the public comment period for the draft

1 EIR on February 1, 2012.

2 MAYOR FOSTER: Moved and seconded. Okay. Thank
3 you, Mr. Neal.

4 Councilmember Gabelich.

5 MS. GABELICH: Okay. Can I -- did you say that
6 you're going to ask them to change the closing date?

7 MR. NEAL: I thought it was February 1.

8 MS. GABELICH: Oh, they extended it already?
9 Okay. Okay.

10 A couple of things. You know, we've got two
11 really serious issues here. We've got the jobs issue and
12 we've got the health impact issue.

13 Before I begin on this, I want to say to BNSF
14 and the representatives, Lou, I've met with you a couple
15 of times, I think the project as defined is really a
16 fabulous project but the consequences related to that
17 project I find very difficult to swallow.

18 You know, when I first came on the council back
19 in 2004, 2005, the pier J EIR was before us and this
20 council -- or that council said no, go back and redo this,
21 this is not acceptable, the impact to the community, it's
22 not acceptable. That's what initiated the green port
23 policy and today I think that where we stand throughout
24 the world we are recognized as being leaders in green port
25 development so, you know, I think there's a little bit of

1 room to go here on what's being proposed.

2 I also have trouble with the threat of the
3 Panama Canal and a while back it was the threat of Mexico
4 and, you know, I think the projected growth for all of our
5 ports shows that there's plenty of room for growth for
6 everybody. Long Beach has an economic duty, that's one of
7 the comments that came. But we also have the
8 responsibility to the residents to define what their
9 health risks are and to identify the well-being of -- of
10 their children and their families.

11 The people that were in support of this project,
12 I don't think they live in those neighborhoods. I don't
13 think that each and every day they're exposed to high
14 levels of pollution. They're not threatened with
15 potential proposed increases of pollution.

16 The 710 is set for expansion. We've discussed
17 that several times tonight. The Hobart yard, they're not
18 identifying that the Hobart yard is going to close. I
19 believe the 1.5 million that's being discussed is about
20 proposed growth so the impact will be significant on not
21 only the west side residents but the entire City of Long
22 Beach. You know, when we talked about pollution levels,
23 there is -- excuse me. The draft EIR uses the 2005 base
24 line for analyzing the project impacts and according to
25 the Port of Los Angeles' air quality report card today the

1 heavy truck -- heavy duty truck emissions of diesel
2 particulate matter have been reduced by 88 percent or
3 greater since 2005 and nox has been reduced by 77 percent,
4 carbon dioxide, a major green house gas contributor, has
5 been reduced by 23 percent from heavy duty trucks. The
6 emissions from cargo handling equipment have been reduced
7 by 55 percent for DPM, 54 percent for particulate matter
8 and 82 percent for sox and 44 percent for nox, so all of
9 these -- and when you look at this how can you really say
10 that identify or using the levels -- the base line levels
11 of 2005 is appropriate? You know, that's -- I'm asking
12 you to go back and really do your homework and make the
13 community proud of having you as a neighbor one day and do
14 the right thing, be a good corporate neighbor.

15 I think the very first thing that could
16 happen -- and I'm interested to thank you, Mayor, for your
17 support of the businesses because I will -- I know you had
18 communication with them. I talked to the leaders of three
19 of these major businesses and none of them, not one of
20 them has been offered another location that is suitable
21 where they could actually move their business and do what
22 they do today, so you're actually putting three
23 businesses -- at least three and I think there's really
24 more like six but three big ones and 1400, 13, 1400 people
25 out of jobs. So I get all the guys that, you know, yes,

1 we want the trades to succeed but this project is going to
2 be built somewhere.

3 My first request is that we find another
4 location so it doesn't have such a significant impact on
5 the health issues related to this community and the job
6 losses related to those companies.

7 Thank you.

8 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

9 Mr. Andrews.

10 MR. ANDREWS: Thank you, Mayor, and I want to
11 thank my colleague, Mr. Neal, for bringing this substitute
12 motion, you know, to the floor. And I know we've been
13 here a long time tonight but -- you can see my voice is
14 kind of going along with it but I think there's a lot of
15 very important issues that we're facing tonight. I worked
16 in Long Beach for a long time and I truly, truly love Long
17 Beach but today we have an unemployment level that is
18 higher than ever before and most folks in my community are
19 struggling and they are looking for jobs and a career and
20 I think that this could be one of the situations, you
21 know, with being if this did go through. But what we're
22 trying to do here is ask the city but we cannot take a
23 position in opposition or support for this project. There
24 is a process for all projects in our state and city.

25 Today the draft environment impact report is

1 open for the public comment and this is the point of the
2 process in which we are to ask the questions. There's
3 some questions that need to be asked and I think that our
4 colleague, Mr. Neal, pointed a lot of those out. After
5 all of the comments are received and the comment period is
6 closed, the Port of Los Angeles will receive this and
7 respond to each one of these comments and revise their
8 report if needed. So I think I'm looking at the time for
9 us to deliberate on and make these matters come true, so
10 these are some of the things I think that's very important
11 for us. There are questions and things that we need to
12 ask and if we ask them and get the response to it and I
13 think we can get the answers that we need to have.

14 Thank you.

15 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

16 Councilwoman Schipske.

17 MS. SCHIPSKE: Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

18 I want to thank everyone that came this evening and heard
19 the long session but also provided us some very meaningful
20 input on both sides. I'm going to support my colleague,
21 Mr. Neal, because I do think we need some additional
22 information before this council makes an official
23 position. And Mr. Neal, I'd like to ask if in that list
24 of things you're asking if we could also make certain that
25 we -- and I guess it would be directed to the city clerk,

1 to forward all the comments that we received tonight
2 from -- from the public, also any comments from here so
3 that that could be put into the EIR for the public comment
4 record as well. Okay. Then I would hope that we do that.

5 Thank you.

6 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

7 Mr. O'Donnell.

8 MR. O'DONNELL: I just -- I'm supportive of the
9 motion and I want to thank the public for coming down here
10 and sharing their opinion on what is somewhat of a complex
11 issue, so thank you.

12 MAYOR FOSTER: Councilwoman Gabelich.

13 MS. GABELICH: Just for clarification, I see
14 where you're going, Steve, wanting more information and we
15 had a little more time than what I thought we had but my
16 concern about these points is as I read it, you're asking
17 for more information, provide information about job losses
18 from relocated tenants or property owners but they'll tell
19 you well, you know, yes, that's going to happen. I think
20 we need to be stronger than that and ask them to work
21 really hard to find the relocation if they can't relocate
22 the site themselves. That would be my -- my biggest
23 concern on where you're going with this but otherwise --

24 MAYOR FOSTER: If I may, if they come back and
25 say that they can't do it or whatever then this counts as

1 an obligation to come in and really oppose it at that
2 point. That would be my --

3 MS. GABELICH: Okay.

4 MAYOR FOSTER: Okay. Mr. Johnson, briefly. We
5 need to close remember.

6 MR. JOHNSON: Well, thanks. Councilman Neal,
7 would you mind a friendly amendment to add some language
8 in there along the lines of requesting the Port of Los
9 Angeles to, among the alternative sites, look for sites
10 that are more appropriately located in industrial areas as
11 opposed to near residential areas such as this? In other
12 words, I think one of the prime concerns we heard from the
13 community isn't the jobs or the growth or the project but
14 the fact that it's a hundred feet from schools and
15 residents. So I'm just asking you, and you've already
16 said you're asking the City of Los Angeles to look for
17 alternative sites as part of your motion, would you mind
18 making a friendly amendment to as part of that expand upon
19 alternative locations that are more appropriate, i.e. more
20 industrial and don't have the kind of impacts on original
21 neighborhoods that this location does?

22 MR. NEAL: Is that more industrial?

23 MR. JOHNSON: I think we can all agree that if
24 this site were in an industrial area such as in the port
25 or, you know, a heavy warehouse area it would be better.

1 The problem is while this piece of land is industrial,
2 across the street is residential. So it's just kind of
3 clarifying your motion that asking the Port of Los Angeles
4 when they're looking for alternative sites if they can
5 look for alternative sites that are more industrial in use
6 and kind of industrial surrounding.

7 MAYOR FOSTER: Excuse me. Don't you mean that
8 is not in close proximity to residences or schools?

9 MR. JOHNSON: Yeah, that's right.

10 MAYOR FOSTER: It is an industrial site.

11 MR. JOHNSON: But I'm saying next to it is a
12 residential -- it's the same thing.

13 MAYOR FOSTER: Are there more suitable sites
14 that are not near residential areas or schools?

15 MR. JOHNSON: You accept that amendment. Okay.

16 MAYOR FOSTER: Councilwoman Schipske.

17 MS. SCHIPSKE: Yes, very quickly.

18 Joan's remarks about the health assessment, I'm
19 hopeful that maybe Joan or members of the community can
20 provide some input if we're going to be adding things to
21 the record instead -- because we've had a lot of just
22 really three-minute discussions on these things, it would
23 be very helpful if the points that you were bringing up --
24 and I know Dr. Nicholas and others have similar points, if
25 we can get that in also to the record and for the council

1 so that we can see that, that would be very --

2 MAYOR FOSTER: Just bring your Bunsen burner
3 down, Joan.

4 MS. SCHIPSKE: Yeah but we do need to see that
5 because it's a very salient point because we have not seen
6 documentation and I think for us to make a final decision
7 we need that.

8 MAYOR FOSTER: Mr. O'Donnell.

9 MR. O'DONNELL: I'm happy to close here shortly,
10 Mr. Mayor, just a clarification.

11 So the motion you added on, Mr. Johnson, was
12 what, you want to look for another location? I want to
13 get clarification. I'm trying to figure out what the
14 motion add-on was here.

15 MR. JOHNSON: Councilmember Neal had a
16 multipart motion and part of that motion was requesting
17 Los Angeles to look into alternative sites, so I was
18 simply clarifying that when the City of Los Angeles was
19 looking at these alternative sites that they try to search
20 for sites that are not proximate to schools and residents
21 as is the current site.

22 MR. O'DONNELL: Thank you, Mr. Johnson.

23 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

24 Ms. Gabelich, and then we're closing.

25 MS. GASBELICH: Thank you, yes.

1 Steve, would you be willing to set that date
2 specific because if we just say before the comment period
3 closes and the information comes back and there's not
4 enough time for us as a council to respond, that's not
5 going to be a good thing. And I'm looking at the
6 calendar. We've got the -- mid January is Tuesday, the
7 17th. That only gives us one more council meeting before
8 the closing of the comment period.

9 MAYOR FOSTER: You won't get a response from
10 them anyway until after the closing comments. So why
11 don't you set it for the 17th of January and let's make
12 sure they get it by then, that's fine.

13 MS. GABELICH: Okay. We'll do that.

14 MAYOR FOSTER: Steve, you'll do that?

15 MR. NEAL: Yes.

16 MAYOR FOSTER: Thank you.

17 All right. We have a substitute motion and a
18 second. Members, on that motion, cast your votes.

19 MR. HERRERA: Motion carries, eight votes yes.

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25

1 I, the undersigned, a Certified Shorthand
2 Reporter of the State of California, do hereby certify:

3 That the foregoing proceedings were taken before
4 me at the time and place herein set forth; that any
5 witnesses in the foregoing proceedings, prior to
6 testifying, were duly sworn; that a record of the
7 proceedings was made by me using machine shorthand which
8 was thereafter transcribed under my direction; that the
9 foregoing transcript is a true record of the testimony
10 given.


11 Further, that if the foregoing pertains to the
12 original transcript of a deposition in a Federal case,
13 before completion of the proceedings, review of the
14 transcript [] was [] was not required.

15 I further certify I am neither financially
16 interested in the action nor a relative or employee of any
17 attorney or party to this action.

18 IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have this date subscribed
19 my name.

20
21 Dated: January 6, 2012



22
23 
24 LISA E. GODANIS
25 CSR No. 4281