OAK CENTER NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION

September 5, 2015

RE: Opposition to Transport and Unloading of Coal in Oakland

Dear Mayor Schaaf, Oakland City Council, and City Staff-

The Oak Center Neighborhood Association (OCNA) has represented the needs of residents and community members of the Oak Center neighborhood of West Oakland for over 40 years. OCNA vehemently opposes: 1) transport of coal by railroad or otherwise through Oakland and West Oakland, and, 2) the unloading of coal at the West Oakland Army Base for transport onto ships docked at the Port of Oakland.

The entire cycle of using coal as energy, from mining, processing, and shipment, through burning to create electricity in power plants is damaging to our environment and harmful to all biota. We implore the City of Oakland to forbid the transport and unloading of coal within the City. The residents of West Oakland have historically suffered from air pollution from diesel and gasoline exhausts from ships docked at the Port and from the three major highways that encircle our neighborhood. Prohibiting coal transport and unloading within the area will protect our residents from coal dust contributions to our already poor, albeit improving, breathing air.

Sincerely,

Michael Taffet, Chair, OCNA

1027 Adeline Street, Oakland CA 94607-2711 oakcenterna@gmail.com