NO COAL IN OAKLAND

Big Coal is teaming up with a local developer to transport its toxic fuel through Oakland for export overseas!

Up to 9 million tons of coal could come through Oakland annually from Utah mines, to be shipped from a new terminal at the former Oakland Army Base. Four counties in Utah have offered the developer a $53 million loan to help finance the export facility if it is used to ship coal.

Coal dust spewing into communities during transport, loading and unloading has serious local health and safety impacts, as well as disastrous effects on the global climate.

The developer claims he will use covered coal train cars to stop fugitive coal dust from polluting the community, but these types of cars are not used anywhere in the country and there’s no proof that they are effective.

The Oakland City Council can pass an ordinance to stop this toxic coal proposal to protect the health and safety of communities.

The No Coal in Oakland campaign includes the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, Sunflower Alliance, 350 Bay Area, Communities for a Better Environment, System Change Not Climate Change, the Sierra Club, and many, many other organizations, community members and leaders.

JOBS, NOT COAL

- No coal does not mean no jobs
- Thousands of other, non-toxic, bulk goods such as grain, gravel, sand and steel can be exported from this new terminal
- Other commodities would actually create more jobs than coal
- Jobs involving coal are unhealthy and unsafe due to dust emissions, which is why the Int’l Longshore and Warehouse Workers Union, among many other unions, have joined us in saying NO to coal

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- These, twice daily, 100 car long coal trains can lose up to one pound of coal, as dust, per car per mile into the surrounding environment
- Toxic coal dust is linked to decreased lung capacity, increased bronchitis, asthma, pneumonia, emphysema, cancer and heart disease
- Adding more toxic particulate matter to the air would mean more trips to the hospital, more kids with asthma, and shorter lifespans for too many people
- The areas of Oakland that these coal trains would traverse and unload their coal are already overtaxed by pollution
- West Oakland, adjacent to the terminal, already has triple the normal rate of asthma cases and a much higher incidence of cancer and other diseases

ENVIRONMENT

- Coal is the fossil fuel that contributes most to climate disruption
- Coal burned anywhere contributes everywhere to global warming

- The countries to which this coal will be exported have lower emission standards
- A coal terminal of this size will result in an increase of at least 26 million tons of annual carbon dioxide emissions worldwide
- Pollutants from coal burning do migrate from China to western North America and have been undermining California’s progress in reducing ozone
- Rising sea levels will have a disastrous effect on critical low lying areas of Oakland

ECONOMICS

- Coal is a dying industry currently experiencing severe decline
- Reduced use in the US has forced the coal industry to look for export opportunities
- Overseas coal prices are dropping as other energy sources become cheaper
- Big pension funds and major wall street entities are divesting their interests in coal
- A similar coal terminal built in Los Angeles in 2007 has already gone out of business
- Oakland could end up stuck with a dirty useless property

THE DEVELOPERS

- Misled the public and lied to city officials about their intentions to include coal at the terminal
- Attempted to keep plans secret and out of the public eye
- Offered money to community groups in exchange for support of their coal plans
- Paid workers to attend the city council hearing to bolster the appearance of pro-coal support
LEARN AND DO MORE:

Links to articles and other resources at: tinyurl.com/OaklandCoalInfo

Sign the petition to tell the City Council stop coal: tinyurl.com/CoalFreeOakland

Contact us with questions or to volunteer at: coalfreeoakland@gmail.com

Our City Council Members really need to know how the people they represent feel about coal so that they take action and stop this disastrous plan.

FIND YOUR COUNCIL DISTRICT:

CALL AND/OR WRITE YOUR COUNCIL MEMBER:

Just let them know you’re against coal trains in Oakland and you want them to vote against the coal terminal portion of the development.

District 1 - Dan Kalb
Phone 238-7001
Email dkalb@oaklandnet.com

District 2 - Abel Guillen
Phone 238-7002
Email aguillen@oaklandnet.com

District 3 - Lynette Gibson McElhaney
Phone 238-7003
Email LMcElhaney@oaklandnet.com

District 4 - Annie Campbell Washington
Phone 238-7004
Email acampbell-washington@oaklandnet.com

District 5 - Noel Gallo
Phone 238-7005
Email ngallo@oaklandnet.com

District 6 - Desley Brooks
Phone 238-7006
Email dbrooks@oaklandnet.com

District 7 - Larry E. Reid
Phone 238-7007
Email lreid@oaklandnet.com

At Large - Rebecca Kaplan
Phone 238-7008
Email rkaplan@oaklandnet.com

Mayor Libby Schaaf
Phone 238-3141
Email officeofthemayor@oaklandnet.com

Interactive map at: mapgis.oaklandnet.com/councildistricts

CALL/WRITE YOUR COUNCIL PERSON

URGENT ACTION NEEDED