

RESPONSE TO QUESTION # 8

From Lora Jo Foo, Oakland, CA
October 2, 2015

I am writing in response to Question 8 posed by Claudia Cappio, Assistant City Administrator in her September 28, 2015 memo to Interested Parties regarding follow-up questions on Coal's Public Health and/or safety impacts.

Question #8 – How much coal currently goes through the Port of Oakland on its way to the Richmond Port (or elsewhere)?

Answer: Coal trains do not come through the Port of Oakland. Two coal trains were seen passing through the Union Pacific right-of-way in the Port of Oakland in a twelve month period, but UP states that this is an anomaly.

COAL TRAINS DO NOT COME THROUGH OAKLAND

I have previously spoken to Ms. Cappio who has for months claimed that coal trains are already going through the Port of Oakland. In her Agenda Report to the City Council dated September 10, 2015 for the September 21, 2015 Public Hearing on coal, she states:

Since the Resolution [opposing transport of fossil fuels] was adopted in June 2014, among other things, the City has conducted outreach to the railroads and the Port of Oakland to address the existing transport of coal through Oakland. Further, in light of existing coal shipments which are transported through Oakland, and existing constraints related to the development at the Oakland Army Base, City staff continues to seek ways to understand and address health and/or safety concerns from the transport of coal through Oakland. [Emphasis added]

On September 17, I spoke by phone with Ms. Cappio and asked her the basis for her claim about “existing coal shipments” through Oakland. She responded that since July or earlier there has been two sightings of coal trains on Union Pacific right of way through the Port of Oakland. In addition to the July or earlier sighting, she said the second sighting she learned about from people who sent her photos in the first week of September of a 100 car long open top coal train going through the Port. She didn't know how frequently this occurs. Other than the two sightings, she didn't know of any other trains coming through Oakland on UP tracks. I told her that I've communicated with two Port staff (Daria Edgerly and Michael Zampa) who in the last 12 months have never seen coal trains coming through on UP lines. Yet despite only two sightings over several months, Ms. Cappio implies in her Agenda Report that coal trains are already coming through Oakland on a regular basis.

On September 15, I spoke by phone to Daria Edgerly, an employee of the Port of Oakland (510-627-1337,) who stated that over the past 12 months, she has never seen coal trains coming through the Port. Ms. Edgerly works at the Port and also lives in Jack London Square.

In response to my email message to the Port of Oakland, on September 15, Michael Zampa responded as follows:

Hi. I am the communications director for the Port of Oakland. Chris Peterson asked me to contact you. Saw your questions about coal on the rails in Oakland. Afraid we don't have answers for you. The Union Pacific controls the tracks you talked about. While no coal at all is shipped from or to the Port of Oakland, can't be sure about coal trains passing on the UP tracks. As I understand it, coal is shipped from the port of Richmond. But as you know, there are absolutely no coal shipments from the Port of Oakland. [Emphasis added].

In response to my follow-up question whether in the past 12 months he's seen coal trains coming through UP tracks, Mr. Zampa who works at the Port replied, "Never saw a coal train."

On September 16, I sent an email message to Andy Perez, Director of Port Affairs for Union Pacific, asking him these questions: 1) Are coal trains coming through Oakland on UP lines at the Port of Oakland? 2) If yes, what are their points of origin and destination? 3) If yes, how often will these trains be coming through this route?

On September 17, Mr. Perez responded by phone and told me that historically, coal has been transported through Oakland but not for at least a decade. He stated that there is no coal coming through Oakland now. Regarding the early September sighting, he said the 100 car coal train was mistakenly sent to Oakland and once Union Pacific learned of it, it was immediately moved to Richmond. He said this coal train going through Oakland was an anomaly. He has not heard of a coal train going through Oakland in July or earlier. Mr. Perez can be reached at 562-235-5859 or aperez4@up.com.

My email correspondence with the Port and Union Pacific are below.

It is unfortunate that based on two sightings of coal trains on Union Pacific tracks in the Port and without further investigation, Ms. Cappio not only states in her September 10, 2015 Agenda Report "in light of existing coal shipments" but also continues to keep this misinformation alive by asking in her September 28 Follow-up Questions memo the question: "How much coal currently goes through the Port of Oakland on its way to the Richmond Port (or elsewhere)?"

I am troubled by a phone conversation on September 16 that I had with John Monetta, who I am told is the City's Real Estate Manager for Oakland Global. In response to my question about alleged coal trains already coming through Oakland, Mr. Monetta stated he thought coal trains come 3 - 4 times a month through Oakland on the Union Pacific line and that coal from one of those trains was loaded on containers and shipped to Asia through the Port of Oakland. I found his statements astounding. Because I was concerned over the spread of false information, I decided to call Ms. Cappio myself and had the above conversation on September 17 with her where I learn the basis of her allegations are just two incidents this year.

Clearly, no coal trains are going through Oakland on a regular basis and the two sighted this year are an anomaly.

Regarding Question #9, since no coal trains come through Oakland except twice by mistake, there is no reason to take business away from the Richmond facility and give it to the proposed "state-of-the-art" Oakland facility.

EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE ON ALLEGED COAL TRANSPORT THROUGH OAKLAND

From: **Michael Zampa** <mzampa@portoakland.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 15, 2015 at 6:31 PM
Subject: Re: Coal
To: lora jo foo ljfoo70@gmail.com

Never saw a coal train. Will try to find a contact tomorrow

Sent from my iPhone

From: **lora jo foo** <ljfoo70@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 15, 2015 at 5:52 PM
Subject: Re: Coal
To: Michael Zampa <mzampa@portoakland.com>

Michael,

Thanks for the quick response. I'm assuming you work at the Port. Have you seen coal trains on UP tracks in the past 12 months? How many times? And do you have any idea why they are there? Even a guess might help us with this mystery. Finally, who would I speak to at UP? Do you have a name and contact info?

lora jo

lora jo foo
[510-282-9454](tel:510-282-9454)

From: **Michael Zampa** <mzampa@portoakland.com>
Date: Tue, Sep 15, 2015 at 5:43 PM
Subject: Coal
To: "ljfoo70@gmail.com" <ljfoo70@gmail.com>

Hi. I am the communications director for the Port of Oakland. Chris Peterson asked me to contact you. Saw your questions about coal on the rails in Oakland. Afraid we don't have answers for you. The Union Pacific controls the tracks you talked about. While no coal at all is shipped from or to the Port of Oakland, can't be sure about coal trains passing on the UP tracks. As I understand it, coal is shipped from the port of Richmond. But as you know, there are absolutely no coal shipments from the Port of Oakland.
Sent from my iPhone

From: **lora jo foo** <ljfoo70@gmail.com>

Date: Tue, Sep 15, 2015 at 4:59 PM

Subject: Coal trains at Port of Oakland

To: cpeterson@portoakland.com

Dear Chris,

I left a voice message and thought I'd email also. I am with the No Coal in Oakland coalition. As you may know, the Oakland City Council is holding a public hearing about coal exports on Sept 21. One persistent rumor has been circulating that coal already is transported through Oakland because a coal train car was seen at the Port a few months back. It has since been clarified that the coal train was sitting on Union Pacific property within the Port and coal trains do not regularly come on UP lines to Oakland. However the rumor persists. Even Mayor Schaaf has repeated this rumor. Do you know how often in the past 12 months coal trains have come through UP property? Do you know why there was one sitting on UP tracks in July? Can you speak on what you know at the Sept. 21 hearing. I can be reached at [510-282-9454](tel:510-282-9454). And I'll try calling you again tomorrow.

Sincerely,

lora jo