A Good Job is a Healthy Job

A statement from the East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy concerning coal through the Oakland Army Base

The East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE) advances economic, racial, and social justice by building a just economy in the East Bay based on good jobs and healthy communities. A **just and sustainable economy** is rooted in fairness and inclusion, dignity for all workers, and healthy and safe communities. We believe and we fight for **good jobs** that pay a living wage with benefits and are accessible to those with barriers to employment; and safe jobs that protect against workplace and environmental hazards.

With the Revive Oakland coalition, EBASE achieved a landmark Good Jobs Policy on the massive Oakland Army Base redevelopment that ensures good paying jobs for local residents. We are already seeing incredible success in the construction phase of this project, with 50.17% of construction hours performed by Oakland residents, 53.27% apprentice hours performed by disadvantaged Oakland residents.

**At EBASE, we also believe that a good job must also be a healthy job.** Workers should have access to proper safety training and equipment, and be protected from hazardous or dangerous materials that may present long- and short-term health risks. Low-income folks and people of color are often disproportionately exposed to environmental pollutants; both on the job and in their neighborhoods. **We are deeply concerned about the potential health hazards that coal presents to workers on the Army Base and the surrounding communities.** We reject the notion that we have to choose between good jobs and healthy communities and know that, in fact, all of our futures are intertwined.

In the years leading up to the final Disposition and Development Agreement for the Army Base, EBASE worked closely with the City of Oakland, and the development team, CCIG and Prologis. During the course of discussions about the project scope, we discussed the types of commodities that would come through a break bulk facility. **From these discussions, we were under the assumption that coal would not be a potential commodity.**

We hope that the City and the developers, Oakland Global, will uphold the health and safety of the workers and community by choosing commodities that do not present health risks.

EBASE continues to honor the cooperation agreement we signed with the City, and we are committed to the long-term success of the Oakland Army Base redevelopment. We believe that coal is not Oakland’s only option. The Army Base redevelopment will be a world-class, state-of-the-art facility that will increase the efficiency of the transportation and logistics industry. **We believe that other, safer commodities can be moved through Oakland. We do not stand by coal at the Oakland Army Base, and we request that the Oakland Global seek out other, safer options.**

To create an inclusive economy with broadly shared prosperity, we must create good jobs that uplift the health and sustainability of the workers, their families and all our communities.