

Neighborhood Council Resolution
In Support of Rules to Reduce Emissions from Railroads: Indirect Source Review Rule
July 2024

WHEREAS, communities living near railroads experience an undue pollution burden due to the railroads long history of environmental injustice; and

WHEREAS, communities such as [ENTER COMMUNITY REPRESENTED BY NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL] adjacent to railroads experience higher rates of asthma, heart disease, COPD, and cancer due to nitrogen oxide and diesel particulate matter emissions from locomotives, heavy-duty vehicles and cargo handling equipment; and

WHEREAS, operational emissions from a single train are currently worse than those of 400 heavy duty trucks¹; and

WHEREAS, communities in LA County have exposure to freight and goods movement pollution from over 14 railyards on a daily basis and goods movement sources make up about half of all smog-forming emissions in our region²; and

WHEREAS, rail-adjacent communities* have a 6-8 years lower life expectancy than those in other parts of the county and are exposed to a higher proportion of pollutants.^{3 4 5}

WHEREAS, the South Coast Air Basin is in violation of the Federal Clean Air Act and requires that we meet our air standards or face sanctions and three of its counties rank in the top three for most polluted for ozone and particulate pollution in the country⁶; and

WHEREAS, 40% of the nation's imports and exports are transported from the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach through the basin to CA inland communities who also bear the burden of this pollution⁷;

WHEREAS, passing a robust Indirect Source Review Rule for freight rail yards will help the South Coast basin achieve a reduction in smog-forming nitrogen oxides of 9 tons per day-- almost 10% of what is required to meet the 1997 standard for ozone.⁸

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the _____ Neighborhood Council supports an Indirect Source Review Rule for Freight Rail Yards at the South Coast Air Quality Management District to clean up their pollution so that the air basin and residents of LA County can breathe cleaner air; and

¹"CARB passes a new In-Use Locomotive Regulation estimated to yield over \$32 billion in health benefits."

<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/news/carb-passes-new-use-locomotive-regulation-estimated-yield-over-32-billion-health-benefits-0>

²AQMD Presentation on Proposed Rule 2306 - Community Workshop 06052024

*Including those living in Wilmington, Harbor Gateway, Compton, Commerce and West Long Beach

³ Lewis, Kristen, and Sarah Burd-Sharps. LOS ANGELES COUNTY HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2017–2018 . MEASUREOFAMERICA of the Social Science Research Council, 2017. Page 83.

⁴<https://calmatters.org/environment/2022/02/california-environmental-justice-by-the-numbers/>

⁵<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/79d3b6304912414bb21ebdde80100b23/page/Main-Page/?views=Click-the-map-to-see-data%2CCalEnviroScreen-3.0>

⁶"Most Polluted Places to Live | State of the Air." www.lung.org/research/sota/key-findings/most-polluted-places

⁷<https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2024-02-14/cargo-traffic-jumped-at-l-a-and-long-beach-ports-in-january-rebounding-from-labor-troubles#:~:text=The%20two%20ports%2C%20which%20handle,that%20employs%20thousands%20of%20people.>

⁸<https://www.latimes.com/environment/story/2024-02-04/epa-poised-to-reject-southern-california-smog-plan>

WHEREAS, an indirect source rule for rail yards is within our local air district's authority to adopt and has been given such authority by Congress in 1977 and confirmed in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in 2010; and

WHEREAS, the South Coast AQMD adopted a Warehouse ISR Rule in 2021 and the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District adopted an ISR in 2005, which has cleaned up air pollution associated with warehouses and other sources; and

WHEREAS, the California Air Resources Board expects the In-Use Locomotive Regulation to yield an estimated \$32 billion in health savings by preventing 3,200 premature deaths and 1,500 hospitalizations⁹; and

WHEREAS, there are zero emissions technologies that are available today to replace dirty diesel locomotives, trucks, transportation refrigerated units, and yard equipment; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the South Coast Air basin made up of Orange, Los Angeles, Riverside, and San Bernardino Counties experienced 130 bad air days;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the _____ Neighborhood Council call on the South Coast Air Quality Management Governing Board to Vote in Support of such a rule; and

Let it be FINALLY RESOLVED that the _____ Neighborhood Council share this resolution in a letter to the Mayor of Los Angeles, the Councilmember for the 15th District, and the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners to request their public support for the Indirect Source Review Rule for Rail Yards.

Signed the following on [DATE] by [President of Voting Board]

⁹ "CARB passes a new In-Use Locomotive Regulation estimated to yield over \$32 billion in health benefits."
<https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/news/carb-passes-new-use-locomotive-regulation-estimated-yield-over-32-billion-health-benefits-0>