

Contact: brittany.king@sierraclub.org to sign on to this letter.



Dear Mayor Libby Schaaf and Oakland City Council,

We, the undersigned organizations, unions, neighborhood associations, businesses, community institutions, and individuals write to you today to ask you to keep coal out of Oakland. As you know, Phil Tagami, President of California Capital & Investment Group (CCIG), and their partner Terminal Logistics Solutions are now proposing to transport coal through the bulk export terminal at the former Oakland Army Base, despite previous statements that they would keep the terminal coal free.

Coal is bad for the climate, community and worker health, and the environment. Oakland and California have standing policies opposing the export of dirty energy, including explicit opposition to coal export by both the City and the Port of Oakland.

In February of 2014, Oakland's Port Commission voted unanimously to reject Bowie Resource Partners' proposal to export coal from the city-owned Charles P. Howard Terminal. And in July of 2014, the City Council passed a resolution opposing the transport of fossil fuels, including coal, by rail through the city. The State of California has taken a complementary position; in 2012, Joint Assembly Resolution 35 of the state legislature stated opposition to coal being exported from the United States to countries with less stringent environmental regulations.

CCIG's secretive project to export Utah coal would go against these precedents -- not to mention their own promises to the community -- and betray the best interests of the residents of Oakland.

California is a coal-free state for good reason, and it shouldn't support the export of this toxic fuel to be burned elsewhere. Coal, the most carbon-intensive of all the fossil fuels, is the largest single contributor to global climate disruption. Whether it's burned here or abroad, the effect of coal on the global climate will be felt by everyone. While California is setting aggressive carbon-reduction targets, this terminal would allow the most carbon-polluting fuel to be brought to market, with devastating consequences.

Coal is also bad for our local workforce, for organized labor, and for worker health. Terminals that ship coal provide far fewer jobs than terminals that ship containers or general cargo -- and that means fewer jobs for Oakland residents. And coal is increasingly an anti-union industry: with the imminent closing of the Deer Creek mine in Emery County, Utah, there will be no union mines operating in that state. Oakland should support projects that create good union jobs.

Finally, coal dust and particulate matter pose significant threats to Bay Area air and water quality. Coal breaks apart easily to create dust that contains mercury, arsenic, uranium, and hundreds of other toxins. The transport of coal through marine terminals poses a significant threat to the San Francisco Bay and the species that depend on a healthy aquatic environment. Coal dust would also exacerbate the air pollution problems already plaguing West Oakland, where residents are already twice as likely to visit the emergency room for asthma as the average Alameda County resident, and are also more likely to die of cancer and heart and lung disease.

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Even with mitigation efforts like covered train cars and coal piles, there is no way to ensure that the community and the environment are protected from the serious health and safety risks of coal exports.

Please stand with every Oakland resident who cares about global climate and community and worker health in opposing this proposal and any other that would export fossil fuels from Oakland's ports. Public land should be used for the public good, not for a dirty export project that would put us all in danger.

Sincerely,

Community and Climate Organizations

350 Bay Area
350 East Bay
Alameda County Department of Public Health
Alameda County Green Party
Alliance of Californians for Community Empowerment (ACCE)
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Bay Area Refinery Corridor Coalition
Bay Area System Change Not Climate Change
Bay Localize
Benicians for a Safe and Healthy Community
Block By Block Organizing Network
Breakthrough Communities
California Student Sustainability Coalition
Center for Biological Diversity
City Slicker Farm Park Council
Climate Workers
Coalition for Clean Air
Communities for a Better Environment
Community Food and Justice Coalition
CREDO Action
Crockett Rodeo United to Defend the Environment (CRUDE)
Earthjustice
East Bay Organizing for Action (OFA)
East Bay Stonewall Democratic Club
Edible Parks Oakland Task Force
Food & Water Watch
ForestEthics
Friends of the Earth
Greenaction for Health & Environmental Justice
GENESIS
Hoover Resident Action Council
John George Democratic Club
League of Conservation Voters, East Bay
Living Love Foundation
Local Clean Energy Alliance
Los EcoAmigos.org
Martinez Environmental Group
Movement Generation Justice and Ecology Project
Oak Center Neighborhood Association
Oakland Tenants Union
Oakland & The World Enterprises, Inc.
Oakland Alliance

Elected Officials:

Ty Alper, School Board Member, Berkeley
Ruth Atkin, Mayor, Emeryville
Jesse Arreguin, Councilmember, Berkeley
London Breed, President, San Francisco Board of Supervisors
Tom Butt, Mayor, Richmond
David Campos, Supervisor, San Francisco
Laurie Capitelli, Councilmember, Berkeley
Keith Carson, Supervisor, Alameda County
Shanthi Gonzales, Oakland Unified School District Board of Education*
Nicky Gonzalez Yuen, Trustee, Peralta Community College Board
Cy Gulassa, Trustee, Peralta Community College Board
Jody London, Oakland Unified School District Board of Education
Peter Maass, Mayor, Albany
Linda Maio, Vice Mayor, Berkeley
Dianne Martinez, Councilmember, Emeryville
Eduardo Martinez, Councilmember, Richmond
Nate Miley, Supervisor, Alameda County
H.E. Christian (Chris) Peeples, Director, Alameda-Contra Costa Transit District
Diana Prola, President, San Leandro School Board*
Jim Prola, Vice Mayor, San Leandro*
Gabe Quinto, Councilmember, El Cerrito
John Rizzo, Trustee, San Francisco City College
Alejandro Soto-Vigil, Member, Berkeley Rent Stabilization Board
Igor Tregub, Commissioner, City of Berkeley Zoning Adjustments Board

**Titles and organizations for identification purposes only*

Faith Organizations

Alameda Interfaith Climate Action Network
Allen Temple Prophetic Justice
California Interfaith Power and Light
Cheryl Ward Ministries
Church by the Side of the Road
First Unitarian Church of Oakland Earth Justice Advocates

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OccupyForum
OccupySF Environmental Justice
Perspective Design Build
Planting Justice
Prescott Oakland Point Neighborhood Association
Protect Our Winters
Public Advocates Inc.
Ragged Wing Ensemble
Rainforest Action Network
Richmond Progressive Alliance
Rootskeeper
Rose Foundation
San Francisco Baykeeper
San Francisco Green Party
Sierra Club
Strike Debt Bay Area
Sunflower Alliance
Urban Habitat
Utility API
Wellstone Democratic Renewal Club
West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project
West Oakland Neighbors

Labor Unions:

AFSCME District Council 57
AFSCME Local 444
AFSCME Local 2700
Amalgamated Transit Union (ATU), Local 192
American Postal Workers Union (APWU), Local 78
Bay Area International Workers of the World (IWW)
California Nurses Association
Industrial Workers of the World Bay Area Chapter
Inland Boatmen's Union of the Pacific: San Francisco Region
International Longshore & Warehouse Union, Local 34
National Nurses United
National Union of Healthcare Workers (NUHW)
Oakland Education Association
Peralta Federation of Teachers
SEIU 1021
SEIU USWW (United Service Workers West)
UNITE HERE 2850
United Auto Workers (UAW), Local 2865

Other organizations sending letters:

Alameda County Democratic Party
Alameda Labor Council
As You Sow
California Interfaith Power and Light
East Bay Alliance for a Sustainable Economy (EBASE)
Green For All
International Longshore & Warehouse Union, Local 6
International Longshore & Warehouse Union, Local 10

Kehilla Community Synagogue Greening Committee
Montclair Presbyterian Church Environmental Committee
The Network of Spiritual Progressives
Oakland Community Organizations (OCO)
St. Augustine's Episcopal Church
St. Patrick's Parish
Unitarian Universalist Church of San Francisco

Faith Leaders

Rev. Debra Avery, First Presbyterian Church of Oakland*
Reverend Dr. Ambrose F. Carroll Sr., Pastor of The Church
by the Side of the Road, Founder of the Green The Church
Campaign
Rev. Ken Chambers, Pastor, West Side Missionary Baptist
Church
Reverend Marilyn Chilcote, Parish Associate, St. John's
Presbyterian Church Berkeley, and Pastor, Beacon
Presbyterian Fellowship Oakland
Rabbi David J. Cooper, Kehilla Community Synagogue
The Reverend Ben Daniel, Senior Pastor, Montclair
Presbyterian Church
Pastor Jim Hopkins, Lakeshore Avenue Baptist Church
Rabbi Burt Jacobson, Kehilla Community Synagogue
Rev. Sandhya Jha, Oakland Peace Center*
Rev. Kurt A. Kuhwald, Unitarian Universalist Community
Minister, Endorsed, and Faith Alliance for a Moral Economy
(FAME) - Interim Clergy Organizer
Rev. Earl W. Koteen, Environmental Justice Minister,
UU Ministry for Earth
Rabbi Michael Lerner, Editor, Tikkun Magazine and Rabbi,
Beyt Tikkun Synagogue
Pastor Laurie Manning, Skyline Community Church
Pastor Chauncey L. Mathews, Corinthian Baptist Church
Monte McClain, Pastor, College Avenue Presbyterian
Church
Reverend Will McGarvey, Interfaith Council of Contra Costa
County
Rev. Dr. Robert A. McKenzie, Beacon Presbyterian
Fellowship
Rev. Dr. Valerie Miles-Tribble, Co-Pastor, Faith
Presbyterian
Church
Pastor George Quickley, St. Patrick's Parish
The Rev. Will Scott, Interfaith Power and Light
J. Alfred Smith, Jr., Senior Pastor, Allen Temple Baptist
Church
J. Alfred Smith, Sr., Pastor Emeritus, Allen Temple Baptist
Church
The Rev. Dr. Kwasi A. Thornell, St. Augustine's Episcopal
Church, Oakland
Servant Brian K. Woodson, Sr. Pastor

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Jack London Improvement District
Union of Concerned Scientists
VAMP Music

Oakland Businesses and Business People:

Arizmendi Bakery, Emeryville
Bedrock Sandals
Better Ventures
Cafe on 7th
Cafe Talavera
California Golden Bear Realty
Core Foods
Flight Deck
Grand Bakery
Kuhl Frames
Man Cave America
Mosaic
Nexus Artisans
Oakland Chocolate Company
Paragon Kitchen and Bath Studio
Park Gas and Food
Solstice Press
Tamales La Oaxaquena

Sean Asmar, owner and chef, Analog
John Bourne, CEO and Co-Founder, BrightCurrent
Laurel Davis, Owner, Donut Savant
Cortt Dunlap, Owner, Awaken Cafe
Dana Frasz, Founder & Director, Food Shift
Karen Graham, Owner, Karen Graham Interiors
John Guhl, Owner, The Star on Grand
J. Keith Kilgore, Kilgore Inc.
Michael Kirkman, Train Hole Art Cooperative
Amanda Messbarger, Owner, Knimble
Tommy Mierzwinski, Owner, Two Jacks Denim
Allen Michaan, Grand Lake Theatre
Alanna Rayford, owner, Urban Stitch Boutique
Glenn Turner, Owner, Ancient Ways

Real Estate Agents

Jennifer Ames, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Todd Andrews, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Charity Ankrum, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Larry Benedetto, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Dana Cordeiro, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Julie Cuellas, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Tracy Davis, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Linda Elkin, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Esther Goldberg-Contreras, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Russell Hill, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Diana Ip, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Hanna Kerns, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Maxi Lilley, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Kim Markison, Agent, Red Oak Realty*

Community Leaders:

Carl Anthony, Co-Founder, Breakthrough Communities
Karolo Aparicio, Executive Director, EcoViva*
Natalie Berns, Communications Manager, Oakland Makers
Thomas Bowden, West Oakland Blues Musician
Elaine Brown, CEO, Oakland and The World Enterprises, Inc.
Vincent Casalaina, Northern Vice Chair, Progressive Caucus, CA Democratic Party
Jess Dervin-Ackerman, AD15 Delegate, CA Democratic Party
Russ Flanagan, Board Secretary, Belmont Staten Homeowners Association
Jack Lucero Fleck, John George Democratic Club
Diego Gonzalez, AD18 Delegate, CA Democratic Party, Vice Chair, CA Democratic Party Chicano Latino Caucus, Political Director, Latino Young Democrats of the East Bay
Rafael J. Gonzalez, Poet
Mario Juarez, AD 18 Vice Chair, Alameda County Democratic Party
Andy Miller, Film Director / Producer, Co-founder of Plus M Productions and Momenta Project
Emily Montan, University of California, Office of the President
Nancy Nadel, Oakland City Councilmember, retired
Kathy Neal, AD 15 Vice Chair, Alameda County Democratic Party
Steve Ongerth, Co-founder, IWW Environmental Unionism Caucus*
M. Paloma Pavel, Co-Founder, Breakthrough Communities
Cecile Pineda, Author, Theatre Director, and Playwright
Sarah Richardson, 18th Assembly District Alternate to the Alameda County Democratic Central Committee, Founder/Former President, East Bay Black Young Democrats
Wilson Riles, former Councilmember, Oakland
Daniel Robertson, President, IAFF Local 55*
Rita Xavier, Assembly District 15 Delegate, CA Democratic Party

**Titles and organizations for identification purposes only*

Health Care Organizations and Providers

Center for Climate Change and Health
Physicians for Social Responsibility - San Francisco Bay Area

Cynthia Belew, MS, CNM, WHNP
Amanda Bloom, PA
Sue Chan, MD
Arthur Chen, MD
Robert Gould, MD
Floyd Huen, MD, MBA

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Kathy Nitsan, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
Marsha Quick, Agent, Red Oak Realty*
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Janice Kirsch, MD, MPH
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Lysa Samuel, PA
Tolbert Small, MD
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Miya Yamamoto, MD, FACOG

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