

No Coal in Oakland!

Since 2015, developers have been angling to build a coal export terminal on the West Gateway, on Oakland's waterfront, near the Bay Bridge toll plaza. Now the City of Oakland and the would-be coal developers are suing each other, with a trial in California State Superior Court scheduled to begin this summer.

- Up to **10 million tons of coal** could come through Oakland annually from Utah mines, to be shipped from the proposed terminal at the former Oakland Army Base.
- At the planned terminal, coal would be transferred off trains coming from mines in Utah, then loaded onto ships that would transport it to Asia.
- Storage and handling coal at the terminal would generate and spread toxic dust particles known to cause serious health impacts. **West Oaklanders, who live in neighborhoods adjacent to the proposed terminal, would suffer the worst health effects.**

Despite unanimous opposition of the City Council in 2016, and opposition of a supermajority of Oaklanders surveyed by the Sierra Club and then-State-Senator Loni Hancock, *developers have never given up their ambition and threat to build a coal export terminal in Oakland.*

In the upcoming lawsuit, the City of Oakland will defend its 2018 decision to terminate the West Gateway lease due to developers' failure to meet contractual milestones. Before Alameda County Superior Court Judge Noël Wise, developers will attempt to reinstate their lease and win a meritless, multi-million-dollar damage claim against Oakland, arguing that the City is to blame for their missed deadlines.

The City based its ban against storage and handling of coal on extensive evidence of serious local health and safety impacts that would result from locating a large coal export facility in West Oakland.

Additional, compelling evidence of severe health impacts was published in a peer-reviewed scientific journal earlier this year, analyzing occurrence of tiny PM_{2.5} particles near trains transporting coal to Richmond, California's Levin Terminal. (The City of Richmond banned coal shipment starting in 2026, but coal from the same mines that would ship through Oakland is still shipping through the Levin terminal today.) This scientific study is *solid evidence* of the threat Oaklanders would face if a coal terminal were built on the West Gateway property.

There are many reasons to oppose a coal terminal in West Oakland. Dozens are described in the bulleted points that follow in this short brochure ... check them out!

JOBS NOT COAL

- Jobs involving coal are unhealthy and unsafe due to dust (PM_{2.5}) emissions, which is why the Alameda Labor Council and the International Longshore and Warehouse Workers Union passed resolutions saying NO to coal
- Thousands of non-toxic bulk goods such as grain, gravel, sand, and steel can be exported from Oakland *instead of* coal

HEALTH, SAFETY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL RACISM

- Twice-daily 100-car coal trains can spew up to six tons of coal dust per week on those who live and work near railroad tracks
- Toxic coal dust is linked to decreased lung capacity; and 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 children with asthma, more school & work days lost, and shorter life spans for too many people
- The communities of color that coal trains would pass through, and near which they would unload their coal, already bear a disproportionate burden of pollution
- West Oakland, adjacent to the proposed terminal, already suffers triple the normal rate of asthma cases and a much higher incidence of cancer and other diseases

CLIMATE IMPACTS

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

- Any major expansion of fossil-fuel infrastructure poses a serious threat to the health and safety of future generations
- Over its 66-year life, the West Gateway coal terminal alone could result in over one billion tons of added CO₂ emissions
- Toxic pollutants from coal burned in China migrate to western North America, undermining California's progress in addressing climate change
- Unless climate change is addressed, rising sea levels will have a disastrous effect on low-lying areas of Oakland

ECONOMICS

- Coal is a dying industry in severe decline
- Reduced use in the US has forced the coal industry to look for export opportunities
- Overseas coal demand is uncertain as Asian countries move to renewable energy
- Big pension funds and major Wall Street entities are divesting from coal
- A similar coal terminal built in Los Angeles in 2007 has already gone out of business
- If coal-shipping infrastructure is built, Oakland will likely be stuck with a dirty, useless property before the 66-year lease is scheduled to end

THE DEVELOPERS

- Misled the public and lied to city officials about their intentions to ship coal
- Offered money to community groups in exchange for support of coal plans
- Funneled \$600,000 into a pro-coal mayoral candidate's 2022 campaign
- Repeatedly threatened to keep coal "on the table," an attempt to bully the City into accepting a settlement riddled with loopholes they could use to further their scheme to ship coal

JOIN A BROAD COMMUNITY

Leading labor organizations spoke out in favor of the City's 2016 ban on handling coal at the West Gateway, including the Alameda Labor Council (representing over 100 unions), the California Nurses Association, and the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU). Over a hundred community organizations — including **faith, health, environmental, and business groups** — joined together to fight for the coal ban.

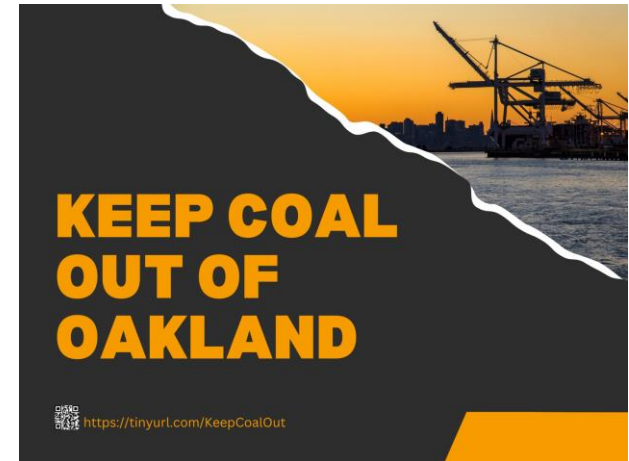
Thousands of Oaklanders will not permit coal to be shipped from our waterfront. Join us!

LEARN AND DO MORE:

A summary timeline of the campaign to keep Oakland from becoming a coal export hub can be found at <https://nocoalinoakland.info/our-campaign/> ... and you can click through to detailed background posts for more info.

You can be part of the campaign to keep coal out of Oakland! Some ways you can help:

- Put up a yard or window sign where you live and/or work
- Come to a West Oakland Community Rally to learn more and pick up yard signs: July 22, 2023, noon – 1:30pm at 732 Willow St.
- Get e-mailed updates by signing up at: <https://nocoalinoakland.info/our-campaign/>
- Tell family, friends, neighbors, and other community members about the threat of a coal terminal on Oakland's waterfront.



DROP plans to ship coal through Oakland's waterfront!

STOP a dire threat to the health of tens of thousands in West Oakland and beyond!

DEFEND the planet against damage caused by mining, transport, & consumption of coal!