PRESS RELEASE

Oakland Community Rally

"NO COAL - NO COMPROMISE"
Saturday, June 25, 2016 1-4 pm

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On the eve of decision by Oakland’s City Council, Oakland residents will rally at City Hall / Oscar Grant Plaza on Saturday June 25, 2016 from 1pm to 4pm to demonstrate broad opposition to coal storage and handling in the city. Dozens of faith, labor, and environmental organizations have endorsed Oakland’s No Coal - No Compromise call. State Senator Loni Hancock found that 92% of respondents to her office’s survey oppose the proposed coal-export terminal in Oakland [1].

Oakland's City Council will vote on a proposal to ban coal storage and handling at the Oakland Bulk and Oversize Terminal (OBOT) at a special meeting on Monday, June 27 at 5 pm.

Oaklanders learned a little over a year ago of developer Phil Tagami’s plan to build a coal terminal by the foot of the Bay Bridge. The proposed coal transport would see up to nine million metric tons of coal shipped through the city’s port each year, sending mile-long trains of Utah coal through West Oakland every day for the duration of Tagami’s 66-year lease of the OBOT site.

Immediately upon learning of this threat to the community’s health and waterfront, city residents organized to push elected leaders to take a stand against this misuse of publicly owned waterfront.

On June 14, 2016, an independent panel of public health experts released an extensive report documenting the devastating health impacts that the plan to ship coal through Oakland could bring to our city [2]. The report provides the City of Oakland ammunition to defend against any lawsuit the developer might file to challenge a strong ordinance banning storage and handling of coal in Oakland.
Artists and speakers who will appear at Saturday's rally include the Justin Ancheta Band; poet Rafael Jesus Gonzalez; community leader Ms. Margaret Gordon of the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project; labor leaders Kim Moses of SEIU Local 1021 and Derrick Muhammad, ILWU Local 10; Pastor Ken Chambers of the West Side Missionary Baptist Church; racial justice activist Cat Brooks; music and spoken word artist Kujichagulul; and activist singing group Occupella.

**Speaker, Community and Public Health Expert Quotations**

**Albany Mayor Peter Maass** says, “As the Mayor of Albany, I am one of eleven East Bay mayors who recently wrote the Oakland City Council in opposition to the shipment of coal from the terminal to be built at the old Oakland Army Base. If coal is shipped overseas from Oakland, it would be transported by rail through our communities, exposing all of our residents to toxic dust. We have no power over this decision, which is in the hands of the Oakland City Council. On behalf of all of us on the rail line, I ask them to vote for the ban on coal.”

“Local, state and out-of-state policymakers have been debating this issue for months,” **California State Senator Loni Hancock (D-Oakland)** says. “Well, I asked those who would bear the brunt of any Oakland coal project – the residents themselves – and they clearly are saying no to coal. As someone elected to serve the people, I hear them loud and clear, and they are saying let's not make coal Oakland's next export.”[1]

**Pollution Prevention Advocate Alvaro Casanova, of the Center for Environmental Health,** says, “At the Center for Environmental Health we have been campaigning for almost two decades to remove toxic chemicals from the air, water, food and other products. We are strongly opposed to the possible shipment of coal through Oakland, which would pollute the local community with toxic particles and would contribute to climate disruption wherever it is burned. We hope the City Council will make the right decision and vote for the ordinance banning coal and pet coke.”

“We need an economy that grows good jobs for everybody in the community, not one that pollutes neighborhoods and pushes out sustainable industries,” says **Kim Moses, president of SEIU 1021 Port Chapter.** “SEIU 1021--along with 21 others unions and the Alameda Labor Council--completely oppose shipping coal through Oakland to the OBOT terminal. We call on the City Council this Monday to vote to prohibit coal and pet coke through this site, and to protect everyone who could be hurt by this developer's scheme.”

**Dr. Heather Kuiper, a member of the Public Health Advisory Panel** that last week released a report warning of health and safety dangers of the coal plan, says, “As public health professionals, our evidence-based determination is that the most effective way to protect Oakland's residents, in particular in West Oakland, from the hazards introduced by the transport, storage, and handling of coal is to prohibit these activities. We could not find evidence that the proposed mitigation measures would effectively protect Oakland's residents; to the contrary our investigation suggests the possibility that these very measures may introduce new hazards into the city.”
Oakland-area survey shows overwhelming opposition to proposed coal-export terminal (2016-04-28)