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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515-0509

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October 25, 2023

Danny Wan
Executive Director
Port of Oakland
530 Water Street
Oakland, CA 94607

RE: Inquiries on Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Project

I write regarding the future of the Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Project currently being undertaken by the Port of Oakland and the United States Army Corps of Engineers and subjected to the analysis mandated under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Specifically, for the CEQA analysis currently being conducted by the Port of Oakland, I would like to see a comprehensive public engagement plan for this project, inclusive of an assessment of how the project could impact traffic congestion and pollution.

Many of my constituents, including organizations such as Earthjustice and the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP), have concerns that the current Draft Environmental Impact Report ("Draft Report") conducted for the project by the Port of Oakland is inadequate. According to WOEIP and Earthjustice, the report lacks analysis of the impacts beyond the project's construction phase, which therefore improperly narrows consideration of greenhouse gas emissions, impacts on local species, and disclosure of where the dredged materials will be placed. Beyond this, they argue that it fails to consider a future where there is higher ship traffic within the harbor, which could add to environmental impacts including increased truck traffic and congestion affecting residents of West Oakland.

In light of the alleged community engagement errors stemming from the Draft Report, I wanted to inquire the following points:

- What steps will the Port undertake to ensure the review process includes meaningful public engagement, allowing concerned citizens, local stakeholders, and environmental

organizations to provide input, express their concerns, and contribute to the decision-making process?

- Could you ensure that the CEQA analysis is inclusive of an examination of the project's potential effects on the West Oakland community, and required mitigation measures to prevent environmental misjustices?

In addition, I wanted to inquire on the processes to include public input and transparency in the decision-making process of this project. It is essential that the affected communities have an opportunity to voice their concerns, provide feedback, and participate in discussions related to significant developments.

Thank you, and I look forward to your timely response.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Barbara Lee". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

cc:

Michael Colbruno, Commissioner, Port of Oakland
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Eric Jolliffe, Environmental Planner, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
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