

# PORT OF OAKLAND

## EXPANDING THE TURNING BASINS: A PROJECT THAT WILL WORSEN PUBLIC HEALTH & ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

### Overview

The Port of Oakland and the U.S. Army Corps want to widen the Oakland Harbor Turning Basins to allow megaships to dock at the Port of Oakland. These megaships are much larger than vessels the Port typically hosts, and will create cascading air pollution and traffic issues when they dock here.

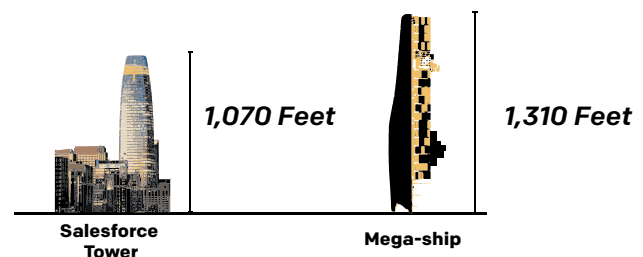
Earlier this year, the Army Corps released a flawed environmental study that ignored serious impacts of this project on air quality, water quality, the climate, and public health. Now, the Port of Oakland is conducting its own environmental report as required by law, but it has largely repeated the Army Corps' mistakes. Specifically, the Port has failed to consider how the expansion project would impact neighboring communities, particularly frontline communities like West Oakland.

### Frontline communities already bear the brunt of the Port's toxic emissions every day.

Communities nearest to the Port of Oakland are already disproportionately impacted by Port activity that generates toxic air pollution from fossil fuels. West Oakland, the neighborhood closest to the Port, is one of the most pollution-burdened areas of the state, with elevated levels of diesel particulate matter, fine particulate matter (PM2.5), and toxic air contaminants. In fact, West Oakland residents are 99% more likely to have asthma and 96% more likely to be born with low birth weight compared to other people in the state. Half of new childhood asthma cases in West Oakland—a community that is 70% people of color—are due to traffic-related air pollution, compared to about 20% of new childhood asthma cases in the nearby affluent and mostly White neighborhoods in the Oakland hills.

Emissions from Port-related sources represent by far the largest share of criteria air pollutants and greenhouse gas emissions in West Oakland and surrounding communities, primarily from drayage trucks, cargo handling equipment, ships and harbor

craft, and trains traveling through the railyards. The expansion of the Basins could make these health disparities even worse.



**The Project will enable visitation by megaships that are 1,310 feet long, longer than the height of the Salesforce Tower in San Francisco, and 193 feet wide, more than half a football field.**

One TEU is a twenty-foot equivalent unit—a container typically 20 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 8 feet tall, and is typically transferred from ship to rail or truck to be delivered in the Bay Area or the surrounding Northern California freight corridor.



**Just one of these megaships can carry more than 19,000 containers.**

### Widening the Turning Basins may exacerbate traffic and congestion in the region.

Megaships can and already do visit the Port, though very rarely. Expanding the Turning Basins would only invite increased visits by megaships, which could in turn bottleneck cargo and exacerbate truck idling and traffic in West Oakland and other communities in the region. The Port should be electrifying all of its equipment before it undertakes more expansion.

# STOP THE PORT OF OAKLAND'S POLLUTION-GENERATING EXPANSION

## Expanding the Turning Basins Could:

### INCREASE AIR & CLIMATE POLLUTION

- Inviting more megaships to the area could increase particulate matter emissions and other harmful air pollutants, and the heavily polluting fossil fuels they use contribute to climate change.
- The Port has fallen behind other California ports that have ambitious electrification goals. Moving too slowly on electrification, while simultaneously expanding Port operations, will push the health and environmental impacts onto the shoulders of already overburdened frontline communities.

### EXACERBATE TRAFFIC AND CONGESTION

- More megaship visits could increase the need for trucks to visit the Port and lead to more traffic and congestion that spills out into roadways and communities throughout the Bay Area.
- Until the Port is operating with zero-emissions equipment, any increase in truck traffic will inevitably increase the air pollution burden on frontline communities and intensify the Port's greenhouse gas emissions.

### THREATEN PUBLIC SAFETY

- Increased maritime traffic could lead to more shipping accidents, oil spills, and other hazardous situations that could harm nearby communities.
- The Port of Oakland has not committed to a plan for where most of the dredged material will be dumped, nor has it analyzed the public safety impacts of truck trips carrying toxic, dredged materials through the region out to landfills.

### HARM WILDLIFE

- Megaships carry enormous amounts of fossil fuel, which means that any accident or oil spill could be catastrophic for the San Francisco Bay.
- Excavating 2 million cubic yards of dredged materials will disturb marine and coastal ecosystems, threaten local wildlife, and impact the San Francisco Bay's water quality.



## TAKE ACTION → SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS TO THE PORT

### Attend a Public Meeting.

We can't allow the Port to double down on a failed and harmful status quo that produces sky-high pollution in the region and in communities like West Oakland.

#### In-Person

- **Wednesday, October 25, 2023** | 5 PM – 7:30 PM
  - **Address:** 55 Harrison St., Oakland, CA 94607
- **Tuesday, November 14, 2023** | 5 PM – 7:30 PM
  - **Address:** Venue Details TBD, in Alameda, CA

#### Virtual via Zoom Video & Audio Webinar

- **Monday, November 6, 2023** | 6 PM – 7:30 PM
- **Tuesday, November 7, 2023** | 11 AM – 12:30 PM

*Webinar Links and Updated Information Available at:*  
<https://www.oaklandseaport.com/turningbasins/>

### Comments are **Due by December 18, 2023.**

**Tell the Port** to redo its analysis and recirculate a new Draft Environmental Impact Report that properly analyzes the air quality and other impacts of a major port expansion.

#### Submit Online Comments & Learn More at:

→ [www.bit.ly/stop-port-expansion](http://www.bit.ly/stop-port-expansion)

#### Or Email Comments Directly to:

→ [TurningBasins@portoakland.com](mailto:TurningBasins@portoakland.com)

**Fact Sheet**

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