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.

The Army Corps conducted an inadequate environmental review of the project and 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.

Widening the Turning Basins is not necessary.

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.
Expanding the Turning Basins could:

**INCREASE AIR POLLUTION**
- Inviting larger ships to the area could increase particulate matter emissions and other harmful air pollutants.
- Megaships are fueled by heavily polluting fossil fuels, which contribute to climate change.
- 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.
- 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.

**THREATEN PUBLIC SAFETY**
- Increased maritime traffic could lead to more shipping accidents and other hazardous situations that could harm nearby communities.
- Megaships also mean more containers pass through the Port at a time. As the number of containers per vessel goes up, so too does local truck and rail traffic, causing a cascading impact into the nearby community with the arrival of each ship.

**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.
- The Army Corps has not committed to a plan for where most of the dredged material will be dumped.

**TAKE ACTION ➔ SUBMIT PUBLIC COMMENTS TO THE ARMY CORPS**

The Army Corps has a legal obligation to fully study the impacts of its proposal on West Oakland residents and the surrounding region. And the Port is already producing far too much pollution in the region, particularly in West Oakland.

Tell the Army Corps to redo its analysis and produce a complete Environmental Impact Statement that properly analyzes the air quality and other impacts of a major port expansion.

In 2023, we can’t allow the Army Corps to double down on a failed and harmful status quo.

Comments are due by June 16, 2023.

**SUBMIT COMMENTS & LEARN MORE ONLINE at:**

⇒ www.bit.ly/stop-port-expansion

**Or Submit Comments via email at:**

OaklandHarborTurningBasinsStudy@usace.army.mil