



January 9, 2023

Secretary Toks Omishakin
California State Transportation Agency
400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2340
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Secretary Omishakin:

On behalf of the Bay Area Council, representing over 300 major employers across the San Francisco Bay Area, I am writing in support of the projects submitted by the Port of Oakland (Port), for a transformative suite of terminal modernization, zero emissions equipment upgrades, and supply chain efficiency investments throughout the Oakland Seaport complex. Through the California State Transportation Agency's (CalSTA) Port and Freight Infrastructure Program (PFIP), the state of California can continue to partner with local agencies and supply chain partners to advance infrastructure initiatives that will support job growth, economic development, and decarbonization efforts at Northern California's preeminent maritime trade gateway.

The Port is one of three principal gateways for containerized cargo on the West Coast of the United States. Together with its supply chain and business partners, the Port directly and indirectly creates more than 84,000 jobs in the region and supports over one million jobs across the United States. The Port plays an essential role in the state and national economies and serves as a critical global gateway for the vast and diverse Northern California Megaregion, including agricultural exporters in the Central Valley and local businesses who rely on key import deliveries.

The Port has proposed a suite of sustainable transportation projects that will modernize and upgrade its marine terminal infrastructure throughout the seaport, in addition to supporting the Port's decarbonization efforts through the introduction of zero-emission cargo handling equipment and charging infrastructure. Additionally, the Port seeks to advance several arterial roadway access improvements that will minimize freight congestion, increase safety, and reduce trucking related impacts on neighboring communities and residents, many of which are historically disadvantaged communities that have been disproportionately impacted by the goods movement.

The proposal will advance and demonstrate the reliability and market competitiveness of zero emissions cargo handling equipment and support a wider adoption of this equipment throughout the entire freight community. The deployment of heavy-duty EV charging infrastructure serving maritime terminal users is among the highest priorities identified by West Oakland community stakeholders, including community leaders that served as the co-chairs of the Port of Oakland's 2020 and Beyond Air Quality planning effort. This initiative was also identified as a top near-term priority implementation item in the AB617-enabled West Oakland Community Air Action Plan.

These projects will improve the overall efficiency of the state's supply chain and strengthen the role of the Port as an international goods movement gateway serving importers and exporters throughout the Megaregion. In addition to fulfilling the supply chain enhancement goals of the PFIP, these projects address important objectives related to the environmental impact, economic development, safety, and resiliency of the Port's operations.

Thank you for your consideration of this important suite of projects that will and significantly advance sustainable transportation initiatives in the goods movement sector in the Bay Area. Should there be any questions or need for more information, please contact Laura Hill, Bay Area Council Policy Director, at Lhill@bayareacouncil.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L Hill', written in a cursive style.

Laura Hill
Public Policy Director
Bay Area Council