



## BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

*Keith Carson, Supervisor, 5<sup>th</sup> District*

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April 24, 2024

Michael S. Regan, Administrator  
Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

**RE: The Port of Oakland's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) 2024 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant (CPRG) Applications**

Dear Administrator Regan:

I wish to express my strong support for the Port of Oakland's two grant submissions to the EPA's CPRG Program related to operations at the Oakland Seaport and at the Oakland International Airport (OAK). The Port is a sustainability leader in the transportation and goods movement sector, partnering with regulatory agencies, neighboring cities, community stakeholders, tenants, and private sector partners to improve the environment, social responsibility, and economy. The Port is working to transition its operations to zero-emissions, a goal which is supported by an ambitious statewide vision of eliminating greenhouse gas emissions.

While the Port is working to transition its operations to zero-emissions, OAK has established a target to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 50 percent by 2030 and 100 percent by 2040. **The proposed project, called *Decarbonizing the Future: Renewable Natural Gas Utilization at Oakland International Airport*, will enable the use of renewable natural gas (RNG) at OAK as part of a new initiative with the City of San Leandro's Water Pollution Control Plant (WPCP).** The Airport currently receives fossil-based natural gas from the local gas utility to fuel critical central utility plant equipment that supports OAK's daily operations. The Airport has a high, long-term demand for local sources of clean, low-carbon, baseload renewable energy. The Project creates an ideal partnership between the City of San Leandro and the Port. Through this collaboration, the city would generate RNG from existing biogas and its directly adjacent neighbor, the Airport, would offtake it to use in daily operations, displacing current fossil-gas usage and grid electricity with a clean source of power with net zero carbon emissions.

In order for the Port to meet the significant demand on the electrical grid to support the conversion of existing cargo handling equipment (CHE) to zero emissions CHE. **The *Transforming Power: Advancing Zero Emission Cargo Handling Equipment with Infrastructure at the Port of Oakland* proposed project seeks to upgrade eight substations to accommodate additional electricity usage.** While the main focus of this project is to support CHE, improvements to the electric distribution grid will also support electric power for non-containerized ocean-going vessels while at berth and improve Port and community electrical grid resiliency. This proposed project builds on prior investments in the Port's electrical infrastructure expanding the zero-emissions vehicle charging capacity at the seaport to over 1,000 pieces of equipment, enhancements to electric grid optimization, and substation upgrades.

I kindly request the application be given full and fair consideration, and we thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Keith Carson, President  
Supervisor, Fifth District