



**Berkeley Public Policy**  
The Goldman School

**Union of  
Concerned Scientists**

April 25, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary of Transportation  
US Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20590

**RE: Port of Oakland's 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Project (PIDP) Proposal**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project (WOEIP), Earthjustice, Environmental Defense Fund, the U.C. Berkeley Center for Environmental Public Policy, and the Union of Concerned Scientists, we wish to express our support for the Port of Oakland's application to the United States Department of Transportation's (USDOT) 2023 Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) for the TraPac Zero Emissions Cargo Handling Project. West Oakland – the frontline neighborhood next door to the Port – is the first community in the state to create and implement a Community Air Action Plan under California Assembly Bill 617 to mitigate serious pollution at the local level. Diesel-powered cargo handling equipment at the Port of Oakland is a significant source of both local health-harming air pollution, and globally harmful greenhouse gas emissions. With the support of the \$46 million grant funding request for this \$57 million project, the federal government can partner and advance innovative and sustainable transportation initiatives in the freight sector and improve the efficiency of port operations while helping mitigate their harm on local communities.

The Project will replace conventional diesel-powered cargo handling equipment (26 off-road yard tractors and 7 container handling top picks) at the Port's second-busiest marine terminal with zero emissions equipment that will be sourced domestically. The Project will also include charging equipment and related infrastructure consisting of Battery Electric Storage Systems and ancillary electrical system upgrades. The charging system includes innovative resiliency features that ensure extended operational duty cycles as the batteries will "trickle charge" while equipment is in use, thereby minimizing additional power from the electric grid that is typically associated with an electrification project of this scale.

The Project will improve port infrastructure to increase the safety, efficiency, and reliability of port operations while simultaneously supporting economic vitality, climate adaptation, and emissions reductions initiatives which are of benefit to local disadvantaged communities. The Project is consistent with state freight improvement goals as outlined in the California State Freight Mobility Plan, the California State Transportation Agency's Climate Action Plan for Transportation Infrastructure, and locally developed plans such as the Port's Seaport 2020 and Beyond Air Quality Plan and the West Oakland Community Air Action Plan, led by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project.

We greatly appreciate the United States Department of Transportation's consideration of the requested investment in this Project, as it supports the continued competitiveness of a critical export gateway for our nation's agricultural shippers while at the same time advancing zero emissions equipment adoption in the maritime sector and domestic manufacturing associated with these green investments.

We appreciate your continued commitment to an efficient and sustainable transportation network and thank you in advance for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

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West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

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