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# California State Senate

SENATOR  
NANCY SKINNER  
NINTH SENATE DISTRICT



CHAIR  
BUDGET & FISCAL REVIEW  
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TRANSPORTATION

July 27, 2021

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

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of California State Senate District 9, I wish to express my strong support for the Port of Oakland's (Port) efforts to create an enhanced sustainable utility infrastructure network to support a growing base of zero emission freight equipment users throughout the seaport. By granting the Port of Oakland's \$11 million request to the U.S. Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP), the federal government can help partner and advance essential sustainable transportation initiatives in the freight sector.

This project will improve the resiliency of the Port's utility operations and supports the continued development and integration of zero emission vehicles and equipment throughout the Port of Oakland's maritime operations. The \$20 million total project consists of a multi-functional modern 12 MW substation integrating renewable power generation to support the expansion of the electric heavy-duty truck fleet and electrically powered cargo-handling equipment, as well as auxiliary ship power availability.

The new substation, replacing a circa 1950s substation at the end of its operational life, will provide demand management and resiliency by integrating new renewable energy sources consisting of a 2 MW fuel cell, 4 MW of solar generation and storage, and connectivity to a nearby publicly owned wastewater treatment plant biomass-powered generator. The new substation will be connected to other Port substations, which improves the reliability of the power supply to the entire Seaport area. During power supply emergencies due to events such as wildfires or extreme heat, the substation could also provide power to the local community, enhancing local grid resilience in the face of climate change.

The Port of Oakland has adopted an ambitious *Seaport 2020 and Beyond Air Quality Plan* which seeks to reduce the emissions impact from its activities and transition into zero and near-zero emissions cargo operations. This air quality plan will also support initiatives that lower the carbon footprint of seaport operations and support California's ambitious greenhouse gas goals.

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The Port of Oakland is a partner on several pilot programs that seek to demonstrate the reliability and market competitiveness of zero emissions cargo handling, drayage trucking, and related port equipment and is eager to support additional opportunities to ensure wider adoption of this equipment throughout the freight community.

Furthermore, due to the health impacts of the high levels of diesel emissions that West Oakland neighborhoods adjacent to the Port are subjected to, the deployment of heavy-duty EV charging infrastructure serving seaport trucking and maritime terminal users is also among the highest priorities identified by West Oakland community stakeholders, including community leaders that have served as the co-chairs of the Port of Oakland's Air Quality planning efforts. EV charging for heavy-duty equipment and vehicles as a top near-term priority is specified in the West Oakland Community Air Action Plan ("*Owning Our Air*"), which was developed by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District and the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project; the Port of Oakland also served on the Steering Committee that developed this plan.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Skinner".

Nancy Skinner  
California State Senator, 9th District