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NORTHERN ALAMEDA COUNTY GROUP

ALAMEDA ALBANY BERKELEY EMERYVILLE OAKLAND PIEDMONT SAN LEANDRO

August 2, 2021

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

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

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the Sierra Club, 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 emissions freight equipment users throughout the seaport. With the support of the Port's \$11 million grant request through the U.S. Maritime Administration's Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP), the federal government can help to partner and advance sustainable transportation initiatives in the freight sector.

This project improves the resiliency of the Port's utility operations and supports the continued development and integration of zero emissions 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 expansion of the electric heavy duty truck fleet and electrically powered cargo-handling equipment, as well as ship power availability at the Port of Oakland. The new substation will replace a circa 1950s substation at the end of its operational life. The new substation 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 operating on anaerobic digestion and not using agricultural or cellulosic waste.

The new substation will be connected to other Port substations, which improves reliability of the power supply to the entire Seaport area. During power supply emergencies due 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 which lower the carbon footprint of seaport operations and support the state's ambitious greenhouse gas goals. The Port of Oakland is a partner on a number of 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 a wider adoption of this equipment throughout the freight community.

Furthermore, 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. Heavy-duty EV charging was identified as a top near-term priority implementation item 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, and as a part of which the Port of Oakland also served on the Steering Committee.

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

Respectfully,



Igor Tregub, Chair

Sierra Club Northern Alameda County Group