



GREEN PORT

Port of San Diego



The Green Port Clean Air Program

The Clean Air Program is a voluntary effort initiated by the Port of San Diego to identify and control local Port-related sources of air pollution. It goes beyond current and proposed regulations, either by implementing pollution control measures before they are required or by doing more than is required. The Port of San Diego is the first California port to voluntarily bring such a program to its Board for adoption.

The measures set forth in the Clean Air Program may have local and regional benefits, but the primary focus of the program is the reduction of air emissions from Port operations at its three marine terminals: the Cruise Ship Terminal, Tenth Avenue Marine Terminal and National City Marine Terminal.

PUBLIC INPUT

The Port convened a stakeholder work group to help identify and prioritize possible ways to control air pollution coming from Port operations. Members represented businesses, residents, labor unions, cities, regulators, environmental groups and other interested parties. Over several public meetings in 2007, the group provided valuable feedback to Port staff and consultants developing the Clean Air Program. As the Clean Air Program moves forward, the work group will meet at key milestones to continue to provide input into the program's implementation. The Port also makes presentations to civic, business and special interest groups in the community about the Clean Air Program to get their input.



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Sources of Air Pollution

In 2006, the Port commissioned an Air Emissions Inventory to identify the sources of air pollutants coming from Port operations. The Port decided to conduct the inventory voluntarily to establish a baseline of data against which the Clean Air Program could be measured. The inventory found the two main Port-related contributors to air pollution were ocean-going vessels (cruise and cargo ships) and trucks that move goods to and from the Port. By quantifying the sources of air pollution, the inventory will help ensure the Clean Air Program is effective in reducing air emissions from the areas of greatest concern.

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Ways to Improve Air Quality

Control measures are structural and operational ways to improve air quality. For example, changing the type of fuel used by ships is a control measure. Another example is reducing the speed at which ships travel, thus reducing air emissions.

Possible control measures were evaluated by the Port, its consultants and stakeholders using a number of criteria, such as feasibility, cost-effectiveness, funding sources, economic impact and ability to achieve the maximum reduction of pollutants from the largest sources. Some control measures require more research before the Port can determine whether they should move forward.

Four control measures were identified in the Clean Air Program as ready to move on to the next step of implementation:

♦ Shore Power (“Cold Ironing”) for Ocean-Going Vessels

Shore power, also called “cold ironing,” enables ships to turn off their diesel engines and connect to electric power when they are docked. Shore power was included in the Clean Air Program because “hoteling,” the time when ships are at the docks offloading or taking on cargo or passengers, was identified in the Air Emissions Inventory as a key source of air pollution and one that is close to local communities. Information also is available about cost and state funding programs, making this control measure a good candidate to move forward.

♦ Truck Replacement/Retrofits

Trucks carry cargo to and from the Port’s marine terminals, including commodities such as automobiles, lumber, cement, sand and fruit. Replacing older trucks with ones that produce less pollution and retrofitting trucks with state of the art filters will help improve air quality on the waterfront and in neighboring communities. Similar to shore power, state funding also is available to help defray the costs for truck replacements and retrofits.

♦ Replacement/Retrofits of Cargo Handling Equipment

Cargo handling equipment refers to cranes, forklifts, loaders, trucks and other equipment that operates at the marine terminals. Although this equipment is not as big a source of air pollution as others identified in the Air Emissions Inventory, emissions from this equipment are in close proximity to workers at the marine terminals and local communities. State funding programs also may be available to assist with these retrofits and replacements.

♦ Vessel Speed Reduction for Ocean-Going Vessels

Reducing the speed of some cargo and cruise ships as they travel to and from San Diego Bay could reduce the amount of air pollution they produce. Emissions from these “transiting” activities were identified in the Air Emissions Inventory as a significant source of air pollution.

Keeping up with Port Operations

The Clean Air Program will identify a strategy that will be applied to all future changes to Port operations. For example, the Port recently completed a Maritime Business Plan — a marketing strategy that will guide how the Port could increase its cargo business. Once the Port decides to make a specific change in operations, such as increasing a certain kind of cargo or changing the configuration of a marine terminal, the Port will conduct the proper environmental review. This will include an assessment of the applicability of air emission control strategies identified in the Clean Air Program.

The Clean Air Program will not undergo an environmental review process, but the individual control measures may be subject to review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), either independently or as part of development projects.

Next Steps for the Clean Air Program

Development of the Clean Air Program is an ongoing effort at the Port of San Diego. As specific implementation plans, costs and timetables are developed for the four control measures, they will be presented to the Board of Port Commissioners for review and approval. In addition to moving forward with the four control measures, the Port will work with its consultants and stakeholders to continue to research and prioritize additional control measures.

Other priorities are to:

- ♦ Identify a specific process that will be applied to all new Port projects and activities to minimize adverse impacts to air quality while maximizing economic growth,
- ♦ Identify implementation, monitoring and reporting strategies to track progress and to make adjustments as needed, and
- ♦ Continue stakeholder involvement.

For more information about the Green Port Clean Air Program, call 619.686.6200 or e-mail greenport@portofsandiego.org



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