



Project Area Committee

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EPA 2009 Achievement in Environmental Justice Award

c/o Tim Fields

1101 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 500

Washington, DC 20038

Dear Mr. Fields:

The Westside Project Area Committee (WPAC) would like to nominate the Clean Truck Program sponsored by the Port of Long Beach for the EPA 2009 Achievement in Environmental Justice Award. As an advisory body to the Long Beach Redevelopment Agency, one of the fundamental objectives of the WPAC is to correct the devastating environmental impacts that the trucking industries and rail yards have inflicted on the Westside of Long Beach (most specifically) as well as the city-at-large.

The birth of the Clean Trucks Program, committed to reducing truck emissions caused by the trucks coming and going from the Port by an extraordinary 80%, was one in many improvements this committee and neighborhood have observed the Port of Long Beach embark on over the past two years. The Port's commitment to bettering the environment and defusing the negative impact Port operations have had on this community continues to breathe fresh optimism into Westside residents, making this a safer and more attractive place to work and live.

The Port has brilliantly communicated its efforts with the Clean Truck Program to us through emails, newsletters, online Harbor meetings, and a series of workshops and information sessions wherein the neighborhood was asked to participate. The recent adjustment in the Clean Truck Fee was a direct result of neighborhood feedback from the local trucking community (some of whom are members of the WPAC), which will make it easier for trucking firms to bring new, clean trucks into the Port. They have also provided us an affable, well-informed liaison in Steven Macias, Community Relations Officer, who not only attends our meetings regularly, but extends himself to bring in experts on specific topics, the Clean Trucks Program being among them, so that all of our questions are addressed.

The positive effects of the Clean Trucks Program will be far-reaching, profound, and crucial for the future of this industrial community, and we applaud all efforts toward that end. It is our position that the Port of Long Beach absolutely deserves this achievement award.

Best regards,

Tony Rivera / Chairman, Westside Project Area Committee