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| 13 | COUNTY OF ALAMEDA  |   |  |  |
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| 15 | WEST OAK AND ENVEDONMENTAL   | G N 22 GV000005   |  |  |
| 16 | WEST OAKLAND ENVIRONMENTAL INDICATORS PROJECT,   | Case No. 22CV008905   |  |  |
|    | Petitioner,  | PEOPLE'S PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE IN INTERVENTION FOR                 |  |  |
| 17 |  | DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF   |  |  |
| 18 | V.   |   |  |  |
| 19 | PORT OF OAKLAND; BOARD OF PORT COMMISSIONERS OF THE PORT OF                            | ACTION BASED ON THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT                  |  |  |
| 20 | OAKLAND; and DOES 1 through 20, inclusive,   | [Code Civ. Proc. §§ 387, 526, 1060, 1085,                                 |  |  |
| 21 | Respondents.   | 1094.5; Gov. Code §§ 12606, 12607; Public Resources Code § 21000 et seq.] |  |  |
| 22 | 1  | 0 13  |  |  |
|    | EAGLE ROCK AGGREGATES; EAGLE ROCK AGGREGATES, INC.; and DOES                           | ASSIGNED FOR ALL PURPOSES TO: Judge: Hon. Frank Roesch                    |  |  |
| 23 | 21 through 40, inclusive,  | Dept.: 17   |  |  |
| 24 | Real Parties in Interest.  | Action Filed: March 24, 2022  |  |  |
| 25 |  |   |  |  |
| 26 | THE PEOPLE OF THE<br>STATE OF CALIFORNIA,  |   |  |  |
| 27 | Petitioner and Plaintiff-Intervenor.   |   |  |  |
| 28 | reduciner and riamum-intervenor.   | I   |  |  |

#### INTRODUCTION

- 1. The People of the State of California, acting by and through Attorney General Rob Bonta ("the People"), intervene as a matter of right in this action pursuant to Government Code section 12606 and Code of Civil Procedure section 387, subdivision (d). The People challenge Respondents the Port of Oakland ("Port"), the Board of Port Commissioners of the Port of Oakland ("Port Board"), and Does 1 through 20's (collectively, "Respondents") approval of the Eagle Rock Aggregates Oakland Terminal ("Project") and certification of the Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Report ("SEIR") for the Project under the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq.
- 2. The Project would construct a new marine terminal at the Port of Oakland that is designed to annually receive up to 2.5 million tons of construction aggregates, including sand, gravel, and other concrete additives. These aggregates would arrive on approximately 48 oceangoing vessels each year and be stored at the Project site in three large stockpiles, with each stockpile reaching up to 40 feet high and containing a total of 350,000 tons of aggregates. The stockpiles would be entirely uncovered, providing almost no protections against dust and particulate matter ("PM") traveling offsite and into nearby communities and waterways. When ready for use, the aggregates would be transported by trucks and barges for regional distribution, generating an estimated 70,000 truck trips and 76 barge trips to and from the Project site annually.
- 3. The Port's environmental analysis for the Project concluded that the Project would cause multiple significant environmental impacts, including the exposure of sensitive populations and onsite workers to substantial air pollution, the emission of nitrogen oxide in excess of applicable thresholds, and new sources of diesel emissions. Additionally, the Port's environmental analysis disclosed that the Project's three uncovered stockpiles will annually emit 900 pounds of crystalline silica PM<sub>2.5</sub> and 6,000 pounds of PM<sub>10</sub> emissions. The Project will also generate substantial emissions from mobile vehicles affiliated with the Project's operations each year:

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> PM particles with a diameter of 10 microns or less (PM<sub>10</sub>) can be inhaled into lungs and induce adverse health effects. Fine PM is defined as particles that are 2.5 microns or less in diameter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). (California Air Resources Board, Inhalable Particulate Matter and Health (PM2.5 and PM10), available at <a href="https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/inhalable-particulate-matter-and-health">https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/inhalable-particulate-matter-and-health</a> (last accessed July 13, 2022).)

ocean-going vessels will produce 52 tons of nitrogen oxide, 1,300 pounds of PM<sub>10</sub>, and 1,240 pounds of PM<sub>2.5</sub>; truck trips will generate 10.67 tons of nitrogen oxide, 5,800 pounds of PM<sub>10</sub>, and 1,000 pounds of PM<sub>2.5</sub>; tugs and barges will emit 480 pounds of PM<sub>2.5</sub>; and off-road equipment will produce 500 pounds of PM<sub>2.5</sub>. These emissions will be cumulative to those generated by other projects at the Port of Oakland and the surrounding area, including the proposed Howard Terminal Ballpark Stadium Project and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Turning Basins Expansion Project. Despite these serious environmental impacts, the Project's SEIR fails to consider and adopt all feasible mitigation measures to reduce pollution burdens.

- 4. The Project site is less than a mile away and upwind from West Oakland, a community that has for decades experienced disproportionate pollution impacts and related adverse health outcomes from various sources, including from Respondents' operations. Indeed, West Oakland's residents are already exposed to more pollution than approximately 80 to 93 percent of all other Californians. Multiple sensitive receptors, including an elementary school, two daycare facilities, five parks, numerous places of worship, and several public and subsidized housing developments, are all located within a one-mile radius of the Project.
- 5. Pursuant to Assembly Bill 617 ("AB 617"), local stakeholders worked with regional and state agencies to develop and adopt an emissions reduction plan that identifies goals, targets, and strategies to reduce pollution and improve health and wellbeing in West Oakland. The emissions reduction plan describes how Respondents' operations contribute to the significant pollution burdens in West Oakland, and includes numerous strategies for Respondents to meet the plan's goals and targets.
- 6. Despite the new and significant environmental impacts that the Project will impose on the West Oakland community, Respondents failed to perform an adequate evaluation under CEQA of the Project's fundamental inconsistency with the AB 617 emissions reduction plan. Moreover, Respondents failed to analyze and adopt all feasible and enforceable alternatives and mitigation measures to reduce the Project's impacts on West Oakland's residents, particularly from windblown dust and particulates emanating from the Project's three, 40-foot high uncovered aggregate stockpiles.

- 7. On March 24, 2022, the West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project ("Petitioner" or "WOEIP") initiated the instant case by filing a Verified Petition for Writ of Mandate and Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief in Alameda County Superior Court, challenging Respondents' approval of the Project and their compliance with CEQA. Petitioner contends that the Port's certification of the SEIR and its approval of the Project violates CEQA by, among other ways, failing to: adequately analyze and mitigate the Project's impacts, describe the Project's existing setting within an environmental justice community, consider reasonable alternatives to the Project, and adequately respond to comments during the Project's environmental review.
- 8. The People file this Petition in support of Petitioner. The People join Petitioner's arguments that Respondents failed to consider and analyze all reasonable alternatives to the Project, adopt all feasible mitigation measures available to reduce the Project's impacts, and impermissibly deferred mitigation. The People's Petition also contends that Respondents violated CEQA by failing to adequately disclose and analyze the Project's inconsistency with the goals, targets, and strategies of West Oakland's AB 617 emissions reductions plan. This Project will increase West Oakland's exposure to pollution and obstruct the emission reduction plan's air quality goals. The People seek a court order directing Respondents to vacate their approval of the Project and certification of the SEIR, and providing injunctive relief restraining Respondents from taking any action to implement the Project until they have fully complied with CEQA.

# ALLEGATIONS SUPPORTING INTERVENTION

- 9. Pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 387, subdivision (d)(1)(A), the People seek to intervene in this action in support of the Petitioner. The Petitioner initiated this instant case by filing a Verified Petition for Writ of Mandate and Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief in Alameda County Superior Court on March 24, 2022, challenging Respondents' approval of the Project and their compliance with CEQA.
- 10. The Attorney General has an unconditional right to "intervene in any judicial or administrative proceeding in which facts are alleged concerning pollution or adverse environmental effects which could affect the public generally." (Gov. Code, § 12606.) WOEIP's petition in this action alleges facts concerning pollution and adverse environmental effects.

Therefore, the People have a mandatory statutory right to intervene in this action pursuant to Government Code section 12606.

11. The People's intervention is appropriate because it is being sought within reasonable time, it will prevent a multiplicity of lawsuits, the People have a direct interest in this litigation, and the existing parties will not be prejudiced by the People's intervention at this early stage of the proceedings.

# **PARTIES**

- 12. The Attorney General, as chief law officer of the State of California, has broad independent powers under the California Constitution and the Government Code to participate in all legal matters in which the State is interested. (Cal. Const., art. V, § 13; Gov. Code, § 12511.) The Attorney General has express statutory authority to participate in cases involving the protection of California's environment and a unique and important role in the enforcement of CEQA. (Gov. Code, §§ 12600-12612; Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21167.7, 21177, subd. (d).) "The Attorney General may maintain an action for equitable relief in the name of the people of the State of California against any person for the protection of the natural resources of the state from pollution, impairment, or destruction." (Gov. Code, § 12607.) The People file this petition pursuant to the Attorney General's independent power to protect the natural resources of the State from pollution, impairment, or destruction in furtherance of the public interest.
- 13. Petitioner WOEIP is a "resident-led, community-based environmental justice organization dedicated to achieving healthy homes, healthy jobs and healthy neighborhoods for all who live, work, learn and play in West Oakland, California." The organization, founded in 2012, works to advance environmental justice through collaborative problem-solving, partnership agreements, and community-based participatory research. The organization has focused its efforts on reversing the negative effects of industrialization, and on working to reduce exposure to toxic soils, polluting businesses, and the diesel truck traffic moving through West Oakland neighborhoods, among other projects.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project, About WOEIP, available at <<u>https://woeip.org/about-woeip/</u>> (last accessed June 23, 2022).

- 14. Respondent Port is and was, at all relevant times, the public entity responsible for regulating and controlling land use in and around the Port area. The Port is the steward of more than 800 acres of land on the east shore of San Francisco Bay, per a Tidelands Trust grant issued by the State of California.<sup>3</sup> The Port is responsible for administering and regulating the seaport at the Port of Oakland, as well as the Oakland Municipal Airport and various commercial real estate. The Port is the "lead agency" for the Project under CEQA per Public Resources Code section 21067, and is charged with conducting the environmental review of the Project.
- 15. Respondent Port Board is an independent and autonomous department of the City of Oakland that is charged with the exclusive control and management of the Port per the charter of Oakland. As the body with exclusive control and management of the Port and the authority to grant final approval to the Project, the Port Board was responsible for certifying that a thorough and adequate review of the Project's environmental impacts was conducted in accordance with CEQA. The Port Board and its members are sued herein in their official capacities.
- 16. Respondents Does 1 through 20, inclusive, are persons whose names and identities are unknown to the People at this time, and the People therefore sue them under these fictitious names. The People will amend this petition to allege the true names and capacities of Respondents Does 1 through 20 as soon as they are discovered.
- 17. The People are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that Real Parties in Interest Eagle Rock Aggregates, Inc., and/or Eagle Rock Aggregates ("Eagle Rock") are the applicants for this Project, and are described as "Eagle Rock Aggregates (ERA)" in the Notice of Determination for this Project that was filed with the County of Alameda by the Port on February 25, 2022. Accordingly, Eagle Rock are real parties in interest in this action per CEQA, Public Resources Code section 21167.6.5, subdivision (a). The People are informed and believe, and on that basis allege, that Eagle Rock Aggregates, Inc., is a Delaware corporation that is authorized to and does conduct business in the State of California. Eagle Rock Aggregates, Inc. is the only

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Port of Oakland, About the Port, available at < <a href="https://www.portofoakland.com/port/">https://www.portofoakland.com/port/</a>> (last accessed June 23, 2022).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Port of Oakland, Board of Port Commissioners, available at < <a href="https://www.portofoakland.com/port/board-of-commissioners/">https://www.portofoakland.com/port/board-of-commissioners/</a>> (last accessed June 24, 2022).

active entity registered with the California Secretary of State under the name "Eagle Rock Aggregates." Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, the People have separately identified both Eagle Rock Aggregates, Inc., and Eagle Rock Aggregates in this petition. As used in this petition, "Real Parties in Interest" and "Eagle Rock Aggregates, Inc." refer to both Eagle Rock Aggregates, Inc., and Eagle Rock Aggregates.

18. Real Parties in Interest Does 21 through 40, inclusive, are persons whose names and identities are unknown to the People at this time, and the People therefore sue them under these fictitious names. The People will amend this petition to allege the true names and capacities of Real Parties in Interest Does 21 through 40 as soon as they are discovered.

# **JURISDICTION AND VENUE**

- 19. The Court has jurisdiction over the matters alleged in this petition pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure sections 526, 527, 1060, 1085, and 1094.5, as well as Public Resources Code sections 21168, 21168.5, and 21168.9.
- 20. Venue is proper in the Alameda County Superior Court per Code of Civil Procedure section 394, which provides that an action or proceeding against a city or other local agency may be tried in the county in which that city or local agency is located. A "local agency" is "any governmental district, board, agency, or other body or corporation," but not the State of California or any of its agencies, departments, or other subsidiary bodies. (Code Civ. Proc., § 394, subd. (b).) Respondents are located within Alameda County, so venue is appropriate in Alameda County Superior Court per Code of Civil Procedure section 394, subdivision (a).
- 21. Additionally, venue is proper in the Alameda County Superior Court per Code of Civil Procedure section 393, subdivision (b), which provides that an action against public officers may be tried in the county "in which the cause, or some part of the cause arose." The Project was approved by Respondents in Alameda County and would be located in Alameda County, so venue is proper in Alameda County Superior Court per Code of Civil Procedure section 393, subdivision (b). (See *Cal. State Parks Foundation, et al., v. Super. Ct.* (2007) 150 Cal.App.4th 826.)
- 22. The People have satisfied the jurisdictional prerequisites to filing this action. Further, the People have submitted multiple comment letters regarding the Project, but are exempt from

CEQA's requirements for exhaustion. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21177, subd. (d).)

# **CEOA'S LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

- 23. CEQA is a comprehensive statute designed to provide for the long-term protection of the environment. (Pub. Resources Code, §§ 21000-21189.) CEQA's primary purposes are to: inform governmental decisionmakers and the public of a project's potential significant environmental effects before the project is approved and those effects become irreversible; identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or reduced; prevent significant, avoidable environmental damage by requiring the adoption of feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures; and disclose to the public a governmental agency's reasons for approving a project with significant environmental impacts. (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15002, subd. (a) "CEQA Guidelines").)
- 24. CEQA requires a "lead agency" evaluating a proposed project to prepare an environmental impact report ("EIR") if the agency determines that the project may have a significant direct, indirect, or cumulative effect on the environment. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15064, subd. (f)(1).) "CEQA is essentially an environmental full disclosure statute, and the EIR is the method by which this disclosure is made." (*Rural Landowners Assn. v. City Council* (1983) 143 Cal.App.3d 1013, 1020; see also Pub. Resources Code, § 21061.) Such disclosure of a project's environmental consequences ensures that "long term protection of the environment . . . shall be the guiding criterion in public decisions." (Pub. Resources Code, § 21001, subd. (d).)
- 25. To meet CEQA's disclosure requirements, an EIR must be "prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decisionmakers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences." (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15151.) The EIR has been described as "an environmental 'alarm bell' whose purpose is to alert the public and its responsible officials to environmental changes before they have reached ecological points of no return." (*County of Inyo v. Yorty* (1973) 32 Cal.App.3d 795, 810.)
- 26. Among other things, CEQA requires EIRs to discuss any inconsistencies between projects and applicable regional plans, including "air quality attainment or maintenance" plans and "plans for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions." (CEQA Guidelines, § 15125, subd.

(d).) "Applicable" plans are those that have been adopted and are applicable to the project at issue. (Chaparral Greens v. City of Chula Vista (1996) 50 Cal.App.4th 1134, 1145, fn. 7.) A determination that a project is consistent or inconsistent with a plan must be supported by substantial evidence. (Golden Door Properties, LLC v. County of San Diego (2020) 50 Cal.App.5th 467, 540.) A fair argument for a significant impact likely exists when a project is inconsistent with a plan specifically intended to mitigate environmental impacts. (Joshua Tree Downtown Bus. All. v. County of San Bernardino (2016) 1 Cal.App.5th 677, 695.) A project is inconsistent with a regional plan if it will "obstruct" attainment of the plan's objectives and policies. (Spring Valley Lake Assn. v. City of Victorville (2016) 248 Cal.App.4th 91, 99.)

- 27. EIRs are also required to describe a range of reasonable alternatives to a project "which would feasibly attain most of the basic objectives of the project but would [also] avoid or substantially lessen any of the significant effects of the project, and [EIRs are required to] evaluate the comparative merits of the alternatives." (CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.6, subd. (a).) An EIR "must contain 'sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the proposed project," the adequacy of which analysis is judged against "a rule of reason." (Center for Biological Diversity v. County of San Bernardino (2010) 185 Cal.App.4th 866, 883 [citations omitted].) "A local agency must make an initial determination as to which alternatives are feasible and which are not. . . .If an alternative is identified as at least potentially feasible, an in-depth discussion is required." (Ibid. [citations omitted].) "Even as to alternatives that are rejected, however, the 'EIR must explain why each suggested alternative either does not satisfy the goals of the proposed project, does not offer substantial environmental advantages[,] or cannot be accomplished."" (Ibid.)
- 28. Lead agencies "should not approve projects as proposed if there are feasible alternatives or feasible mitigation measures available which would substantially lessen the significant environmental impacts of such projects[.]" (Pub. Resources Code, § 21002.) As such, CEQA requires a lead agency to "mitigate or avoid the significant effects on the environment of projects that it carries out or approves whenever it is feasible to do so." (Pub. Resources Code, § 21002.1, subd. (b).)

- 29. Lead agencies must "ensure that feasible mitigation measures will actually be implemented as a condition of development, and not merely adopted and then neglected or disregarded." (*Federation of Hillside and Canyon Assns. v. City of Los Angeles* (2000) 83 Cal.App.4th 1252, 1261 [citing Pub. Resources Code, § 21002.1, subd. (b)].) Mitigation measures adopted pursuant to an EIR to mitigate or avoid a project's significant impacts on the environment must be "fully enforceable through permit conditions, agreements, or other measures." (Pub. Resources Code, § 21081.6, subd. (b).)
- 30. An EIR should not defer mitigation. However, when immediate mitigation is "impractical or infeasible," mitigation may be fully developed after project approval under certain limited conditions. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.4, subd. (a)(1)(B).) Deferral is permissible provided the agency "(1) commits itself to the mitigation, (2) adopts specific performance standards the mitigation will achieve, and (3) identifies the type(s) of potential action(s) that can feasibly achieve that performance standard and that will be considered, analyzed, and potentially incorporated into the mitigation measure." (*Ibid.*)
- 31. "When the informational requirements of CEQA are not met but the agency nevertheless certifies the EIR as meeting them, the agency fails to proceed in a manner required by law and abuses its discretion." (Cherry Valley Pass Acres and Neighbors v. City of Beaumont (2010) 190 Cal.App.4th 316, 327.) "The error is prejudicial 'if the failure to include relevant information precludes informed decisionmaking and informed public participation, thereby thwarting the statutory goals of the EIR process." (Id. at p. 328, quoting San Joaquin Raptor/Wildlife Rescue Center v. County of Stanislaus (1994) 27 Cal.App.4th 713, 721-722.)

  Abuse of discretion is established if the agency has not proceeded in a manner required by law or if the determination or decision is not supported by substantial evidence. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21168.5; Cleveland Nat. Forest Foundation v. San Diego Assn. of Governments (2017) 3 Cal.5th 497, 511.)

#### STATEMENT OF FACTS

# I. THE WEST OAKLAND COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

32. West Oakland is a diverse, multi-racial community where 42 percent of residents

| 1  | identify as Black or African American, 18 percent identify as Hispanic or Latino, and 11 percent            |
|----|---|
| 2  | identify as Asian. It is also a relatively low-income community with approximately 52 percent of            |
| 3  | the population living two times below the poverty level, compared to 23 percent in the broader              |
| 4  | San Francisco Bay Area. <sup>5</sup> West Oakland already experiences disproportionately high levels of air |
| 5  | pollution from the Port of Oakland, four highways, industrial facilities, and truck-related                 |
| 6  | businesses. According to the State of California's statewide pollution burden screening tool,               |
| 7  | CalEnviroScreen 4.0, West Oakland residents endure greater pollution exposure than 80-93                    |
| 8  | percent of all other Californians. <sup>7</sup> CalEnviroScreen further identifies the census tracts        |
| 9  | surrounding the Port as falling within the top 90 percent of all census tracts statewide for                |
| 10 | exposure to diesel PM pollution.  |
| 11 | 33. The West Oakland community suffers from serious health impacts that are related to                      |
| 12 | this pollution exposure. CalEnviroScreen finds that residents in West Oakland are more likely to            |

this pollution exposure. CalEnviroScreen finds that residents in West Oakland are more likely to suffer from asthma than 99 percent of other Californians. The Alameda County Public Health Department reports that people living in West Oakland are 1.75 times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma-related illnesses that the general population of residents in Alameda County. The asthma rates in West Oakland are particularly alarming for children—almost 25 percent of the student body at the West Oakland Middle School has asthma or breathing problems. Further, air pollution-related diseases, including cancer, heart disease, stroke, and

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Bay Area Air Quality Management District and WOEIP, Owning Our Air: The West Oakland Community Action Plan (October 2019) at p. 2-6, <a href="https://www.baaqmd.gov/~/media/files/">https://www.baaqmd.gov/~/media/files/</a> ab617-community-health/west-oakland/100219-files/final-plan-vol-1-100219-pdf.pdf?la=en> (citing American Community Survey (ACS) 2013-2017 DP05 [census tracts 4014, 4015, 4016, 4017, 4018, 4022, 4024, 4025, 4026, 4027, 4105, 9819, and 9820].)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> CalEnviroScreen is a tool created by the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment that considers environmental, health, and socioeconomic information to produce scores and rank every census tract in the state. A census tract with a high score is one that experiences a much higher pollution burden than a census tract with a low score. CalEnviroScreen 4.0 is available at <a href="https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4af93cf9888a424481d2868391af2d82/page/Draft-total-page/">https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/4af93cf9888a424481d2868391af2d82/page/Draft-total-page/</a> CalEnviroScreen-4.0/?data id=dataSource 2-1762adfe08c-layer-5percent3A5169> (last accessed July 9, 2022).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Muntu Davis, Air Pollution Risks & Vulnerability to Health Impacts: A Look at West Oakland (March 2018) at Slide 4, <a href="https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2018-03/capp">https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2018-03/capp</a> consultation group march 2018 alameda county health presentation.pdf (last accessed July 9, 2022). Environmental Defense Fund, Traffic Pollution Causes 1 in 5 New Cases of Kids' Asthma (April 2019), <a href="http://blogs.edf.org/health/2019/04/29/traffic-pollution-causes-1-in-5-new-cases-1-in

chronic lower respiratory disease, are some of the leading causes of death in West Oakland, where the average life expectancy of residents is 6.6 years lower than the average life expectancy of residents across Alameda County. <sup>10</sup> Per CalEnviroScreen, infants born to families residing in West Oakland are born with lower birth weights than 83-96 percent of all other Californians. In short, West Oakland is an environmental justice community affected by multiple sources of pollution and related health challenges. 11 II. THE WEST OAKLAND COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN 

- 34. The pervasive challenges facing West Oakland have been recognized by various government agencies. In 2019, pursuant to AB 617, the California Air Resources Board ("CARB") identified West Oakland as a community disproportionately burdened by environmental pollution, and with the participation of community stakeholders and the Bay Area Air Quality Management District ("BAAQMD"), adopted a community emissions reduction plan ("CERP") for West Oakland—the West Oakland Community Action Plan ("WOCAP"). (See Health & Saf. Code, § 44391.2, subd. (c).)
- 35. The WOCAP discloses that Port-related emissions contribute 57 percent of the diesel PM emissions to West Oakland, 52 percent of the cancer risk, and 17 percent of the PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions, and that diesel PM emissions account for over 90 percent of the community's total cancer risk. <sup>12</sup> The WOCAP further states that West Oakland suffers from cancer risk exposure in excess of BAAQMD risk thresholds, and that the community was subjected to PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions of around 1.70 µg/m<sup>3</sup> in 2017. <sup>13</sup>
  - 36. The WOCAP establishes emission reductions goals and targets to address these

of-kids-asthma-in-major-cities-how-data-can-help/> (last accessed July 9, 2022).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Davis, *supra* note 8, at Slides 8-10.

West Oakland is also a historically redlined community. Beginning in the 1930s, federal housing policy directed investment away from "risky" communities of color in the East Bay, including West Oakland, Emeryville, and parts of Berkeley, Alameda, and Oakland. (WOCAP, *supra* note 5, at p. 2-2.) The neighborhoods in West Oakland were coded red, signifying the least desirable areas where investment was to be avoided. (*Id.* at pp. 2-2 to 2-3; see also University of Richmond Digital Scholarship Lab, Mapping Inequality, Oakland, CA, <a href="https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=14/37.804/-122.293&city=oakland-ca&adview=full">https://dsl.richmond.edu/panorama/redlining/#loc=14/37.804/-122.293&city=oakland-ca&adview=full</a> (last accessed July 9, 2022).)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> WOCAP, *supra* note 5, at pp. 4-5, 5-7 to 5-9 (Table 5-2 and Fig. 5-4), 6-15 (Table 6-2). <sup>13</sup> *Id.* at p. 4-7 (Fig. 4-4).

serious burdens faced by the West Oakland community. The WOCAP includes two overarching goals: (1) by 2025, all neighborhoods throughout West Oakland will experience the same air quality conditions as the average West Oakland residential neighborhood in 2017; and (2) by 2030, all neighborhoods throughout West Oakland will experience the same air quality conditions as the least impacted neighborhood (i.e., the neighborhood with the cleanest air) in 2017. <sup>14</sup>

- 37. To achieve these goals, the WOCAP sets forth emission reduction targets for diesel PM, PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and cancer risk. Per the WOCAP, local emission sources, including Port-related trucks, marine vessels, operations, and equipment, combined may emit no more than the following concentrations into West Oakland neighborhoods: for diesel PM, no more than 0.25  $\mu$ g/m³ by 2025 and no more than 0.13  $\mu$ g/m³ by 2030; for PM<sub>2.5</sub>, no more than 1.7  $\mu$ g/m³ by 2025 and no more than 1.2  $\mu$ g/m³ by 2030. Further, the WOCAP's cancer risk targets are less than 200 cases for every 1 million people in 2025, and less than 110 cases for every 1 million people in 2030. <sup>15</sup>
- 38. The WOCAP also identifies 89 strategies that multiple agencies, including the Port, must implement to meet the WOCAP's goals and targets. The WOCAP identifies 12 strategies specifically applicable to the Port, including: truck and container parking solutions; measures to transition to zero-emission vehicles ("ZEV" or "ZEVs"); ZEV infrastructure transition planning; adoption of incentives for cleaner marine vessels; and standards for upgrading to cleaner locomotives and locomotive infrastructure. <sup>16</sup>

# III. THE PROPOSED EAGLE ROCK AGGREGATES TERMINAL PROJECT

- 39. Eagle Rock distributes construction aggregates throughout North America. The aggregates are mined in British Columbia and shipped to cities along the western United States. Eagle Rock currently operates two marine terminals in California—one in Richmond ("Richmond Terminal") and the other in Long Beach.
- 40. The proposed Project would construct Eagle Rock's newest terminal less than a mile from West Oakland. This terminal would use a northwestern corner of the Port for marine vessel

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> *Id*. at p. 4-4.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> *Id.* at p. 4-7 (Fig. 4-4).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> *Id.* at pp. 6-21 to 6-32 (Table 6-4).

operations and for aggregate stockpiling and distribution. The site is currently used for truck parking and shipping container storage.

- 41. The Project is designed to receive 2.5 million tons of aggregates annually. The aggregates would arrive on approximately 48 ships each year, which would offload the aggregates onto an overhead conveyer system. The conveyer would deposit the aggregates into three uncovered, open-air stockpiles, each reaching up to 40 feet in height, and containing approximately 350,000 tons of aggregates combined. The aggregates would then be loaded onto trucks and barges for transport to regional facilities and projects. The Project will generate 375 daily truck trips, 70,000 annual truck trips, and be authorized to operate for at least 27 years.
- 42. The Port's CEQA analysis for the Project concluded that the Project would expose sensitive populations and onsite workers to substantial air pollution, would produce emissions of nitrogen oxide in excess of applicable thresholds, and create new sources of diesel emissions. The analysis further disclosed that the Project's three uncovered aggregate stockpiles will annually emit 900 pounds of PM<sub>2.5</sub> and 6,000 pounds of PM<sub>10</sub>, that emissions from the Project-affiliated ocean-going vessels will annually generate 52 tons of nitrogen oxide, 1,300 pounds of PM<sub>10</sub>, and 1,240 pounds of PM<sub>2.5</sub>, and that the 70,000 Project-related truck trips will generate 10.67 tons of nitrogen oxide, 5,800 pounds of PM<sub>10</sub>, and 1,000 pounds of PM<sub>2.5</sub> per year. Further, the Project will produce substantial PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions from tugs and barges (480 pounds per year) and off-road equipment (500 pounds per year).

# IV. PROJECT ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

# A. Notice of Preparation of the SEIR

- 43. Rather than prepare a new EIR, the Port chose to supplement its 2002 Final Environmental Impact Report for the Oakland Army Base Redevelopment Project to evaluate the Project's environmental impacts. The Port issued a Notice of Preparation ("NOP") of the Draft SEIR for the Project in August 2019. The NOP disclosed that the Project could have significant environmental impacts on air quality, energy, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, water quality, and transportation, among other impacts.
  - 44. The Port received several comments on the NOP, including from state and local

agencies as well as community groups. The People submitted comments on the NOP in October 2019, expressing concerns about the impacts of the Project on West Oakland residents and calling for a full analysis of the Project's consistency with the WOCAP. The People recommended the Port adopt all feasible mitigation measures to ameliorate the Project's impacts, such as enclosing or covering the stockpiles, establishing ZEV transition deadlines for all vehicles and equipment servicing the Project, constructing ZEV charging infrastructure, enforcing truck routes and idling restrictions, limiting Project hours of operation, installing air filtration systems for nearby sensitive receptors, and constructing vegetative barriers and tree canopy near the Project site to reduce emissions and filter out air contaminants.

- 45. BAAQMD, the local air quality agency, also commented on the NOP. BAAQMD recommended a robust analysis of the pollution affecting the West Oakland community and the Project's potential impacts. BAAQMD also urged that zero-emission equipment be used for Project operations, as well as incorporation of all feasible measures to minimize air quality and greenhouse gas impacts from the Project.
- 46. Petitioner WOEIP submitted comments regarding the NOP as well. WOEIP expressed concern about the Project's potential impacts to air quality from particulate and truck emissions, from extensive water use for dust control, and from the displacement of truck and container parking from the Project.

#### B. Draft SEIR

- 47. The Port released the Draft SEIR in November 2020. The Draft SEIR concluded that the Project would cause several significant and unavoidable impacts to air quality, and that it would increase the severity of the air quality impacts analyzed as part of the prior Army Base Redevelopment Project. The Draft SEIR found that some potentially significant impacts—such as impacts to aesthetics, hazardous materials exposure, noise levels, transportation infrastructure, and energy use—could be reduced to less than significant levels with incorporation of certain mitigation measures.
- 48. The People commented on the Draft SEIR in January 2021. The People explained that the Draft SEIR was deficient in several ways, including that it failed to adequately account for the

Project's impacts on the neighboring community, that it failed to describe how the Project would affect Eagle Rock's Richmond Terminal operations, and that it failed to correctly analyze the Project's PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions. Additionally, the People's letter stated that the Draft SEIR did not include a complete analysis of the Project's inconsistency or consistency with the WOCAP, failed to analyze and adopt all feasible mitigation measures, improperly deferred mitigation, and failed to analyze reasonable alternatives. The People specifically recommended that the Draft SEIR include mitigation measures to reduce emission-related impacts from the Project's uncovered stockpiles, aggregate transfer operations, vehicle trips, and fugitive dust, as well as air quality impacts from Project-affiliated ocean vessels, commercial harbor craft, and off-site trucks.

- 49. CARB, the State's primary air quality agency, commented on the Draft SEIR in December 2020. CARB's letter noted that the Project would increase exposure to air pollution in West Oakland as well as in Richmond, and recommended additional mitigation and design measures to alleviate these impacts, including completely covering the aggregate stockpiles, requiring all Project equipment to be zero-emission from the start of operations, requiring trucks servicing the Project to be model year 2014 or later with a transition to ZEVs by 2030, and requiring tug boats and ocean vessels affiliated with the Project to be equipped with Tier 4 or cleaner engines, among other measures. It further urged the Port to require all marine vessels, trucks, locomotives, off-road vehicles, and cargo handling equipment to be zero-emission prior to or by 2035. CARB also criticized the Draft SEIR for impermissibly deferring mitigation by failing to include specific targets and performance standards. Finally, CARB expressed concern about the deficiencies in the Draft SEIR and the potential impacts the Project would have on disadvantaged communities, and urged the Port to coordinate with the West Oakland community to ensure that the Project was consistent with the WOCAP.
- 50. BAAQMD also commented on the Draft SEIR in January 2021. BAAQMD recommended the following additional mitigation measures for the Project: more stringent measures to reduce exposure to PM<sub>2.5</sub> emissions, including incorporation of "maximum feasible controls" for the aggregate stockpiles, construction of vegetative or physical barriers to reduce winds within the Project site; requiring all stationary equipment to be zero-emission and using the

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lowest-emitting mobile equipment; including shore power to provide electricity to berthed ocean vessels and requiring Project-affiliated ocean vessels and tugs to contain Tier 3 or Tier 4 engines; requiring trucks to be covered and installing truck watering stations at the Project site; and requiring heavy duty trucks to be zero-emission by 2030, among other measures. Further, BAAQMD recommended additional analysis of the cumulative health impacts and the impacts of truck emissions on surrounding communities.

51. Petitioner WOEIP submitted extensive comments on the Draft SEIR in January 2021. Petitioner argued that the Draft SEIR failed to analyze whole categories of potential impacts, failed to analyze the impacts on the Richmond Terminal, failed to adopt mitigation adequate to alleviate the Project's impacts, and failed to examine reasonable alternatives to the Project, among other deficiencies. Petitioner further noted that the Draft SEIR failed to analyze whether the Project would support the goals and targets in the WOCAP. Like other commenters, Petitioner recommended additional mitigation measures, including installation of shore power to electrify berthed ocean vessels, requiring Project tugs and ocean vessels to utilize Tier 4 or cleaner engines, relocating the concrete facility currently located in West Oakland, requiring trucks to be sprayed prior to exiting the Project site, establishing emissions standards and deploying air quality monitoring devices, requiring zero-emission equipment for Project operations, controlling emissions from the aggregate stockpiles by watering or covering the stockpiles, and mandating that all heavy-duty trucks servicing the Project be zero-emission by 2030, among other measures. WOEIP also contended that the Draft SEIR failed to adequately compare the environmental benefits of several alternatives to the Project, including an alternative that would enclose the stockpiles in a building and which the Draft SEIR concluded would eliminate localized PM emissions from the stockpiles.

#### C. Certification of the Final SEIR and Approval of the Project

- The Port released the Final SEIR for public review on November 30, 2021. It also scheduled a public hearing on December 16, 2021, for the Port Board to consider certification of the Final SEIR and approval of the Project.
  - 53. In advance of the Port Board's hearing, WOEIP sent a comment letter to the Port on

December 15, 2021, expressing similar concerns about the Final SEIR as it did regarding the Draft SEIR. Petitioner emphasized that air quality impacts from the Project's fugitive dust, marine vessels, and truck traffic would exacerbate the pollution-related health impacts experienced by the West Oakland community. Petitioner also noted that the Project would displace existing truck and container parking space into neighboring residential streets. Petitioner recommended mitigation measures that could alleviate these impacts, including, at minimum: requiring the aggregate stockpiles to be covered or watered to an equivalent degree; reducing emissions on poor air quality days by reducing truck trips, reducing aggregate hauling, increasing watering, and using only electric vehicles; and including greater community input in the Project's air quality planning. Finally, Petitioner explained that its concerns with the Draft SEIR's analyses had not been rectified, such as the failure to analyze whole categories of impacts, the failure to analyze impacts to the Richmond Terminal, the failure to adequately analyze health impacts, and the failure to adequately analyze the Project's inconsistency with the WOCAP, among other deficiencies.

- 54. BAAQMD also commented on the Final SEIR on December 16, 2021. BAAQMD supported the Project's mobile equipment electrification measures and the requirement that four Project-affiliated trucks be fully electric. However, BAAQMD explained that it was "concerned with the significant and unavoidable NOx [nitrogen oxide] and PM impacts" the Project will produce, and urged the Port to address its comments regarding the Draft SEIR. The letter rejected the use of emission reduction credits as mitigation, and recommended additional measures to control the Project's air quality impacts, including: requiring shore power for marine vessels; requiring ocean vessels and tugboats to use cleaner engines; fully enclosing the aggregate stockpiles to reduce fugitive dust; mandating a full transition to ZEV trucks by 2030 and requiring zero-emission yard trucks and cargo handling equipment onsite; and funding cleaner locomotive engines.
- 55. Notwithstanding the concerns raised by Petitioner and BAAQMD regarding the Final SEIR, the Port Board voted to certify the Final SEIR and its associated documents and materials at the public hearing on December 16, 2021, via Resolution 21-87. The Port Board also

project is inconsistent with a regional plan if it will "obstruct" attainment of the plan's objectives and policies. (*Spring Valley Lake Assn. v. City of Victorville* (2016) 248 Cal.App.4th 91, 99.)

- 61. CEQA requires EIRs to advance the statute's public informational goals by requiring EIRs to describe, analyze, and compare a reasonable range of alternatives to a project which would feasibly attain most of the project's basic objectives, but would [also] avoid or substantially lessen any of the project's significant effects. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.6, subd. (a).) An EIR "must contain 'sufficient information about each alternative to allow meaningful evaluation, analysis, and comparison with the proposed project," the adequacy of which analysis is judged against "a rule of reason." (*Center for Biological Diversity v. County of San Bernardino* (2010) 185 Cal.App.4th 866, 883.) "If an alternative is identified as at least potentially feasible [by the agency], an in-depth discussion is required." (*Ibid.*) "Even as to alternatives that are rejected, however, the 'EIR must explain why each suggested alternative either does not satisfy the goals of the proposed project, does not offer substantial environmental advantages[,] or cannot be accomplished." (*Ibid.*)
- 62. CEQA also requires EIRs to describe and analyze all feasible mitigation measures to minimize or avoid projects' significant environmental impacts. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21002; CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.4, subd. (a)(1).) Approval of a project without including such feasible mitigation to avoid or minimize environmental damage violates CEQA. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15021.) CEQA further requires that adopted mitigation measures be fully enforceable. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21081.6, subd. (b); CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.4, subd. (a)(2).)
- 63. CEQA prohibits lead agencies from deferring mitigation in EIRs, except under specific circumstances. Mitigation may only be deferred until after a project's approval only if its immediate implementation is "impractical or infeasible," with certain conditions. (CEQA Guidelines, § 15126.4, subd. (a)(1)(B).) Deferral is permissible provided the agency "(1) commits itself to the mitigation, (2) adopts specific performance standards the mitigation will achieve, and (3) identifies the type(s) of potential action(s) that can feasibly achieve that performance standard and that will be considered, analyzed, and potentially incorporated into the mitigation measure." (*Ibid.*)

- 64. Respondents violated CEQA by certifying the SEIR without complying with its mandates for environmental review documents. Among other deficiencies, Respondents' SEIR violated CEQA in at least four ways:
  - 1. The SEIR fails to adequately disclose, discuss, and analyze the Project's inconsistency with the WOCAP. The SEIR fails to disclose and discuss the Project's fundamental inconsistencies with the WOCAP's overarching air quality goals and its air pollutant emissions and cancer risk reductions targets. The SEIR also fails to analyze and incorporate all the feasible WOCAP strategies applicable to the Port as mitigation measures, and does not describe why the excluded strategies are infeasible as mitigation. Because a fair argument for a significant impact exists when projects are inconsistent with plans intended to mitigate environmental impacts, the SEIR's failure to disclose and analyze the Project's inconsistency with the WOCAP's goals and targets is also a failure to identify, analyze, and mitigate any associated significant environmental impacts.
  - 2. The SEIR failed to identify, analyze, or compare a reasonable range of alternatives to the Project, and failed to provide substantial evidence to support its conclusion that the single project alternative it did consider is infeasible. The SEIR failed to consider additional alternatives to the Project's open-air aggregate stockpiles, such as three separate enclosed structures or three-sided enclosures to cover the stockpiles. Instead, it only considered and rejected as infeasible one single, massive, enclosure for all of the stockpiles. Moreover, the SEIR failed to provide substantial evidence that the massive structure it did consider was infeasible—the SEIR presents only bare assertions comparing this alternative to Eagle Rock's enclosed Richmond Terminal.
  - 3. The SEIR failed to adopt all feasible mitigation measures that would avoid or reduce the Project's significant impacts. Specifically, the SEIR failed to disclose, analyze, or adopt feasible mitigation measures to enclose or cover the three aggregate stockpiles, to control fugitive dust, to transition to zero-emission

trucks and vehicles, and to require marine vessels to utilize cleaner engines. The SEIR also failed to analyze and incorporate feasible measures from the WOCAP that would avoid or reduce the Project's impacts.

- 4. The SEIR improperly deferred mitigation by failing to show that the mitigation would be impractical or infeasible to implement at the start of Project operations, and by failing to adopt performance standards for the deferred mitigation. The SEIR failed to show why analyses for zero-emission technologies are postponed until after Project operations have begun, explain why Tier 3 or Tier 4 engines cannot be utilized by marine vessels, justify a delayed timeline for incorporation of cleaner marine vessel engines, and substantiate the performance standards and timelines applicable to a pilot capture-and-control study. The SEIR also failed to require that the Project use construction equipment with the best available emissions control technology as soon as it becomes available.
- 65. Because Respondents' SEIR failed to comply with CEQA's requirements, Respondents' approval of the Project must be set aside.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

The People pray for judgment as follows:

- 1. For peremptory and alternative writs of mandate under Code of Civil Procedure section 1094.5 and Public Resources Code section 21168.9:
  - a. Directing Respondents to void, vacate, and set aside every determination, finding, and/or decision approving the Project, including certification of the Final SEIR, the adoption of the Findings and the Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the approval of all associated Project permits, entitlements, and other approvals;
  - b. Directing Respondents and Real Parties in Interest, and any of their agents, servants, and employees, to suspend any and all activities pursuant to, or in furtherance of, Respondent's determinations, findings, and/or decisions related to the Project's approval, and to restrain them from taking any action to

| 1  | implement, fund, or construct any portion or aspect of the Project, until                            |   |  |
|----|--|---|--|
| 2  | Respondents have taken all actions necessary to comply with CEQA; and                                |   |  |
| 3  | c. Directing Respondents to fully comply with the requirements of CEQA with                          |   |  |
| 4  | respect to the Project, and take any other specific action that may be necessary                     |   |  |
| 5  | to bring Respondents' deterr   | mination, finding, and/or decision into compliance                |  |
| 6  | with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines, as required by Public Resources Code                              |   |  |
| 7  | section 21168.9.   |   |  |
| 8  | 2. For a declaration pursuant to Code of Civil Procedure section 1060 that Respondents'              |   |  |
| 9  | certification of the Final SEIR and approval of the Project violated CEQA and the CEQA               |   |  |
| 10 | Guidelines, that any further certifications and approvals are void, invalid, and without effect, and |   |  |
| 11 | that the Project is inconsistent with applicable plans and policies, including the West Oakland      |   |  |
| 12 | Community Action Plan;   |   |  |
| 13 | 3. For costs of this suit;   |   |  |
| 14 | 4. For attorneys' fees as authorized by Code of Civil Procedure sections 1021.5 and                  |   |  |
| 15 | 1021.8, and other provisions of law; and   |   |  |
| 16 | 5. For such other and further relief as the Court deems proper.                                      |   |  |
| 17 |  |   |  |
| 18 | August 4   |   |  |
| 19 | Dated:, 2022   | Respectfully Submitted,   |  |
| 20 |  | ROB BONTA Attorney General of California                          |  |
| 21 |  | ABIGAIL BLODGETT Supervising Deputy Attorney General              |  |
| 22 |  |   |  |
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| 24 |  | Davin A. Widgerow  DAVIN A. WIDGEROW                              |  |
| 25 | OK2019104951   | Deputy Attorney General  Attorneys for the People of the State of |  |
| 26 | 83529840.docx  | California, ex rel. Rob Bonta, Attorney General                   |  |
| 27 |  |   |  |
| 28 |  |   |  |

# **DECLARATION OF SERVICE BY E-MAIL**

Case Name: Eagle Rock Aggregates Port of Oakland Terminal (BEJ)

Case No.: **22CV008905** 

I declare:

I am employed in the Office of the Attorney General, which is the office of a member of the California State Bar, at which member's direction this service is made. I am 18 years of age or older and not a party to this matter.

On August 4, 2022, I served the attached:

# PEOPLE'S PETITION FOR WRIT OF MANDATE IN INTERVENTION FOR DECLARATORY AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF

by transmitting a true copy via electronic mail.

# SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California and the United States of America the foregoing is true and correct and that this declaration was executed on <u>August 4</u>, <u>2022</u>, at San Diego, California.

00

| A. Lopez  | Mopo      |
|-----------|-----------|
| Declarant | Signature |

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# **SERVICE LIST**

# West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project v. Port of Oakland, et al. Case No. 22CV008905 Superior Court of the State of California - County of Alameda

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