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Local Port Truckers' Panel Hearing

OAKLAND, CA August 1, 2011 _Alameda County Supervisors Nate Miley and Scott Haggerty will be co-chairing a panel hearing to give local Port truckers an opportunity to discuss their concerns about scheduled Phase II upgrades for drayage trucks. Specifically, the panel discussion will focus on the recent California Air Resources Board (CARB) decision not to adopt staff proposed modifications that would have delayed the next Phase of drayage truck compliance.

The panel hearing is scheduled from **1 to 3:30 p.m. Thursday, August 4, in Oakland at the Alameda County Board of Supervisors Chambers, 1221 Oak St. 5th Floor.**

"It's important to take a critical look at policy decisions that could bring a devastating loss to our local economy and hardship to small, independent Port truckers," said Nate Miley, president of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors.

The current Drayage Rule schedule impacts truckers' jobs and the continuing ability to move cargo in Alameda County. Since the beginning of 2010, fleets have been required to install PM filters for certain engine model years and to replace all 2007 and older vehicles by January 1, 2014 in order to achieve further emissions reduction. However, many independent Port truckers say they have already made significant reductions under Phase I of the drayage truck rule and incurred high-interest rate loans and large amounts of debt to meet State clean air regulations. Furthermore, high demand for 2008 and newer model trucks is driving up the price and new replacement trucks will cost \$130,000 per truck. As a result, this adversely affects 4,400 truckers at the Port whose businesses have been crippled by the slow economic turnaround and a doubling in the price of fuel.

"Small independent Port truckers are being hit twice in rapid succession to comply with CARB environmental regulations," said Ronald Light, executive director of the West State Alliance. "They need a more natural process to gradually get rid of old trucks and over time replace them with new models."

The Port is essential to Oakland commerce and small family owned and operated trucking companies are a part of that economic engine. The goal of the panel hearing is to explore the many complex issues associated with port operations and driver workforce, the economy and air quality.

Invited panel members include officials from West State Alliance, the Air Quality Management District, the Port of Oakland, California Air Resource Board, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab, Coalition for Clean & Safe Ports, Cal/OSHA, the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, Alameda County Board of Supervisors and City of Oakland elected officials.

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