06-1-6
1/27/06

Subject: Support the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)
Date: Thu, 26 Jan 2006 14:11:17 -0800
From: Lawrence Dale <ldale@barstowca.org>
To: landreon@arb.ca.gov

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JAN 26 2006
AIR RESOURCES BOARD
CLERK OF THE BOARD

January 27, 2006

Robert F. Sawyer

Chairman

California Air Resources Board

1001 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Dr. Sawyer:

I'm writing to support the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) entered into by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) and Union Pacific Railroad Company and BNSF Railway Company. As Mayor of the City of Barstow, I have worked with BNSF railroad over the past five years on a variety of projects. I have found them to be good corporate citizens, as well as cooperative and trustworthy partners. The staff's January 13, 2006 staff report clearly demonstrates the benefits of the MOU and I urge the Board to leave the agreement in place at your hearing today.

Specifically, over the past six months the railroads have accomplished the following:

- Submitted study plans for health risk assessments at designated yards
- Limited nonessential locomotive idling to 60 minutes and installed or ordered required idling devices
- Provided an update on the diesel particulate filter technology and pilot program

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- Provided 1-800 numbers to communities to report idling or smoking locomotives

- Conducted trainings to inform staff how to implement the new anti-idling and visible emission requirements

- Provided Visible Emission and Idling Coordinators at each designated rail yard

- Conducted early reviews of possible short term action to reduce emission at designation rail yards

- Held or scheduled community meetings over 50% of the designated yards to discuss early actions to reduce emissions

- Drafted program review and inspection protocols

- Announced plans to acquire over 70 new low-emission switch locomotives for operation in the Los Angeles Basin in 2006 and 2007. This represents 50% of the low HP units currently in use in the basin and in combination with local other locomotive emission strategies already in place provide over a 90% reduction in NOx and diesel PM emissions compared to the units already in place.

The termination clause is essential to ensure consistent statewide regulation and to avoid a patchwork of regulations. Staff and the railroads have fulfilled the CARB Board's October request and have clarified the termination clause to ensure all parties understand this important part of the MOU.

The CARB Board should leave the MOU in effect as it achieves 20% reduction in locomotive PM emissions statewide that could not be required by any other regulatory agency in California and establishes a community based process to review further reductions. The City of Barstow has one of the designated yards in our City. I feel that the agreement is good for our city and will be an asset to Barstow's residents. As direct beneficiaries of this agreement, I look forward to working with CARB on implementing this innovative agreement.

Regards,

LAWRENCE E. DALE

Mayor, City of Barstow