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From: Heidi Swillinger <heiditruthdig@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, November 7, 2022 4:09 PM
To: ARB Clerk of the Board
Subject: Public comment for 11/17 In-Use Locomotion Regulation meeting

Categories: KRISTINE

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I live in a mobile home park for elders in San Pablo, less than 30 yards from the Burlington Northern railway line, which also borders a densely populated neighborhood of multigenerational homes just up the road from us.

Multiple trains run on this line daily. Every evening, when they stall on the tracks for switching operations, these trains belch diesel fumes so pervasive they fill up the houses if windows or doors are open. I used to consider this a mere annoyance, but now that I understand the risks these fumes pose to me and my neighbors, it's downright terrifying.

According to studies by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, 43% of the cancer risk in my neighborhood attributable to localized sources is due to pollution generated by the extensive rail and marine operations in our area. Nearly half of that is from rail lines and rail yards.

Few people voluntarily live next to railroad tracks. Most of us are here because we have run out of affordable options. My community was pinpointed under AB 617 legislations specifically because of how heavily it is affected by the harmful emissions we cannot escape.

As a steering committee member of the Community Emissions Reduction Plan for our the Richmond- North-Richmond-San Pablo Path to Clean Air area, I urge you to adopt the In-Use Locomotion Regulation under consideration, and to beg you to add even more stringent regulations as soon as cleaner technology for rail operations becomes available.

The railroad tracks aren't moving, and neither can we, so all that stands between us and a healthier future is you.

Heidi Swillinger
San Pablo, California