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November 15, 2021

Dear California Air Resources Board:

Harbor craft, such as tugboats, ferries, barges and dredges, contribute to an increased health and cancer risk to millions of Californians near the ports and beyond. I am signing my name to support strengthening the Commercial Harbor Craft Regulation (“CHC”) for cleaner air. Harbor craft, many of them old and polluting, emit a toxic brew of diesel particulate matter. Particulate matter gets into your lungs, weakens your immune system, and causes ground-level ozone, which can reach unhealthy levels on hot days. The technology exists for zero-emissions boats and ships: Just like cars and trucks, boats and ships must transition off fossil fuel.

I join fellow public officials to end the continued emissions from harbor craft across the state of California. This proposed rule amendment is an answer to clean up an industry that continues to use the lowest quality of technology and dirtiest fuel at the expense of residents nearby our harbors and beyond. This rule avoids 531 premature deaths statewide, 161 hospital admissions, 236 emergency room visits, providing \$5.25 billion in benefits versus \$1.98 billion in costs, according to recent findings from air quality experts at the California Air Resources Board. Our health cannot afford additional delays in adopting this rule.

Given the climate emergency that we are facing, we need bold climate leadership. I’m asking you to strengthen the Commercial Harbor Craft rule:

1. Move forward with a strong rule now to advance zero-emissions and clean up the dirtiest engines in other commercial harbor craft categories.
2. Set all ferries, tugboats, dredges and barges on an electrification pathway right now and require full electrification by 2035.
3. Direct staff to revisit the rule with the Board as the zero-emissions boat market evolves to ensure the regulation achieves maximum emission reductions
4. Increase funding for zero-emissions boat pilots, retrofits and new vessels to spur innovation

Let’s keep California on a path towards innovation and clean air.

Sincerely,

Sandy Naranjo
Port Commissioner