



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# Air Resources Board

**Mary Nichols, Chairman**  
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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

September 16, 2008

## Interested Community Members:

As part of its efforts to promote a comprehensive railyard emissions reduction program, the Air Resources Board (ARB) staff, in cooperation with representatives from BNSF Railway (BNSF), will conduct a public meeting to discuss BNSF's draft mitigation plan to reduce diesel particulate matter emissions at the BNSF San Bernardino Intermodal Railyard. BNSF is preparing the draft mitigation plan pursuant to a 2005 Agreement between ARB, BNSF, and Union Pacific Railroad. In addition, representatives from the South Coast Air Quality Management District will be present.

The date, time, and location for the BNSF San Bernardino draft railyard mitigation plan public meeting are provided below:

<u>Date/Time:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Railyard Covered:</u>
Wednesday, October 1, 2008 6:30 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	City of San Bernardino Council Chambers 300 North "D" Street San Bernardino, California 92418	BNSF San Bernardino

The draft mitigation plan for the BNSF San Bernardino railyard can be found on the ARB's railyard website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/hra/hra.htm>. This meeting notice is available at: <http://www.arb.ca.gov/railyard/community/community.htm>.

Public comments on the BNSF San Bernardino railyard draft mitigation plan are encouraged prior to, and up to 30 days after, the October 1, 2008 public meeting. If you are a person with limited English, there will interpreter services available at these meetings.

As background, ARB identified particulate matter from diesel exhaust (diesel PM) as a toxic air contaminant in 1998. Statewide diesel PM accounts for about 70 percent of the estimated potential ambient air toxics cancer risk. Some residential areas are in close proximity to significant sources of diesel PM such as ports, railyards, and freeways. In those areas, increases in cancer risk are often significant and can, in a few cases, equal or exceed the regional background levels. The estimated regional background risk level for the South Coast Air Basin is estimated to be about 1,000 in a million caused by all toxic air pollutants in 2000 (ARB, 2006a).

*The energy challenge facing California is real. Every Californian needs to take immediate action to reduce energy consumption. For a list of simple ways you can reduce demand and cut your energy costs, see our website: <http://www.arb.ca.gov>.*

California Environmental Protection Agency

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In June 2008, ARB staff released a health risk assessment (HRA) for the San Bernardino railyard. An HRA is a tool that is used to evaluate the potential for a chemical to cause cancer or other illness. A risk assessment uses mathematical models to estimate the theoretical maximum health impacts from exposure to certain concentrations or levels of toxic air pollutants released from a facility or found in the air. The HRA also provides the necessary information to design and implement an effective mitigation plan for each railyard. In the case of the BNSF San Bernardino railyard, ARB staff estimated that in 2005 the maximum individual cancer risk (MICR) was 2,500 in a million excess cancer risk for a specific location near the railyard. In addition, in 2005 a population of about 340,000 was exposed to about ten in a million excess cancer risk in a number of areas surrounding the railyard.

In a separate but complementary effort, the ARB staff is developing a technical assessment of potential additional strategies that can be implemented to further reduce diesel particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen emissions generated from locomotives operating regionally and locomotives and other emissions sources at specific railyards. ARB staff will discuss the status of this effort at the meeting.

ARB and BNSF will make every effort to include all interested parties in the meeting notification process. We recognize that numerous individuals and organizations conduct additional outreach efforts in their specific community. To assist with these efforts, we would like to encourage those individuals and organizations to photocopy and distribute this public meeting notice. Alternatively, you may contact Ms. Maria Yanez-Forgash, with Arellano Associates, to add anyone to the project database and to receive additional copies of meeting flyers. Ms. Yanez-Forgash may be reached at (909) 627-2974.

If you have questions about the upcoming meeting, please call Mr. Harold Holmes, Manager, Engineering Evaluation Section, at (916) 324-8029.

Sincerely,



Robert D. Fletcher, Chief  
Stationary Source Division

cc: Mr. Harold Holmes, Manager  
Engineering Evaluation Section