



Linda S. Adams  
Secretary for  
Environmental Protection

# Air Resources Board

Mary Nichols, Chairman  
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Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Governor

November 17, 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 Union Pacific Railroad (UP), will conduct a public meeting to discuss UP's draft mitigation plan to reduce diesel particulate matter emissions at the UP's Oakland railyard. UP prepared the initial draft mitigation plan pursuant to a 2005 Agreement between ARB, BNSF Railway (BNSF), and UP.

The date, time, and location for the UP Oakland draft railyard mitigation plan public meeting are provided below:

<u>Date/Time:</u>	<u>Location:</u>	<u>Railyard Covered:</u>
Tuesday, December 9, 2008 6:30 p.m.- 9:00 p.m	West Oakland Senior Center Multipurpose Room 1724 Adeline Street Oakland, California, 94607	UP Oakland

The draft mitigation plan for the UP Oakland 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 UP Oakland railyard draft mitigation plan are encouraged prior to, and up to 30 days after, the December 9, 2008 public meeting. If you are a person with limited English, there will be Spanish interpreter services available at the 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 cancer risk level caused by all toxic air pollutants in 2000 for the broader San Francisco Air Basin is estimated to be about 660 in a million.

In April 2008, ARB staff released the health risk assessment (HRA) for the UP Oakland railyard as a part of the West Oakland Study. An HRA is a tool that is used to evaluate

*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>.*

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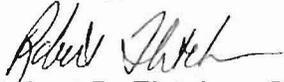
the potential for a chemical to cause cancer or other illness. A risk assessment uses mathematical models to estimate the theoretical maximum health impacts from exposure to certain concentrations or levels of toxic air pollutants released from a facility or found in the air. The HRA also provides the necessary information to design and implement an effective mitigation plan for each railyard. In the case of the UP Oakland railyard, ARB staff estimated that in 2005 the maximum individual cancer risk was about 460 in a million for specific locations near the railyards. In addition, in 2005 a population of about 193,000 was exposed to diesel PM cancer risks of about ten in a million for a number of areas surrounding the railyards.

In a separate but complementary effort, ARB staff is developing a technical assessment of additional emissions reductions options. These options would be implemented to accelerate further diesel PM and oxides of nitrogen emissions reductions, beyond those identified in the railyard mitigation plans. ARB staff will discuss the status of this effort at the meeting.

ARB and UP 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 Mr. Daniel Smith, Senior Public Information Officer for the Bay Area Air Quality Management District at (415) 749-5130 for additional information.

If you have questions about the upcoming meeting, please call Mr. Harold Holmes, Manager, Engineering Evaluation Section, at (916) 324-8029 or email [hholmes@arb.ca.gov](mailto:hholmes@arb.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Robert D. Fletcher, Chief  
Stationary Source Division

cc: Mr. Daniel Smith, Senior Public Information Officer  
Bay Area Air Quality Management District  
939 Ellis Street  
San Francisco, California 94109

Mr. Harold Holmes, Manager  
Engineering Evaluation Section