

Senate Bill 1279

California Transportation Commission Funding Allocation

Senator Loni Hancock (D-9)

Date Introduced, 2016

ISSUE

California's investments in climate change and clean energy are a significant accomplishment by the state to address climate change. It is in the state's interest to protect its commitment to reduce greenhouse gases. Funding projects and developments that further accomplish these goals is a priority for the state.

Funding projects and developments that contribute to pollution and climate change is contrary to the state's goals. Fossil fuel transportation including coal creates the same air quality and safety problems associated with good movements, in addition to other more serious hazards. This bill would prohibit the use of public funds to build or operate any port project, located near a disadvantaged community that exports coal from California.

BACKGROUND

In 2006, California voters approved Proposition 1B, which allocated almost \$20 billion in bonds to advance infrastructure projects, mobility, safety, and air quality improvements throughout the state. Proposition 1B placed a condition on the allocation of funds by emphasizing that projects receiving funds must address the state's most urgent needs and reduce pollutant emissions.

Two billion dollars of the Prop 1B funds were dedicated for Trade Corridor Improvement Fund (TCIF) projects. The California Transportation Commission (CTC) was tasked with disbursing the funds with an emphasis placed on projects that improve trade corridor mobility while reducing emissions of diesel particulate and other pollutant emissions.

The City of Oakland was awarded \$176 million from the TCIF funds for site preparation and infrastructure redevelopment of the former Oakland Army Base.

The initial redevelopment project proposal provided to the CTC, did not include the potential for the transportation and export of coal, nor did the initial EIR anticipate the inclusion of a coal export facility examined.

However, the current proposal plans to transport up to 9 million tons of coal to West Oakland each year. Coal would come on railroad lines from Utah and be transferred to cargo ships for export to China and other countries.

West Oakland, the location of the development project, is designated by the CalEnviroScreen as being a disadvantaged community due to its high asthma rates, cancer risks, and pollution levels.

This proposal to transport approximately 9 million tons of coal is not in accordance with Proposition 1B and contradicts California's efforts in reducing catastrophic climate change.

Governor Brown, Senate President Pro Tem de León and other state leaders have worked for many years to position California as a world leader in climate change initiatives. Exporting coal through the City of Oakland would undermine all the climate change and environmental policies adopted by our state.

THIS BILL

SB 1279 prohibits the CTC from programming or allocating any public funds for any project at a port facility that is located at, or adjacent to, a disadvantaged community if it includes plans to export coal from the state.

SUPPORT

City of Emeryville
Friends Committee on Legislation of California
San Francisco Baykeeper
Sierra Club California

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