



**AB 617 Portside Community Steering Committee
Meeting Agenda**

01/28/25

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Virtual Via Zoom: [Register Here](#)

[Click here for meeting materials](#)

Meeting Objectives

- Receive a presentation by USDG Fuels' staff to learn more about the proposed project and an opportunity to ask questions.
- Receive a presentation by the Environmental Health Coalition about the potential impacts of the USDG Fuels Terminal Facility Project and take a potential vote to have the CSC sign on to a letter.

Agenda

(Meeting Facilitator: *Shalem Aboody-Lopez, SDAPCD*)

- I. Welcoming Remarks** 5:00 pm
- a. Review Meeting Objectives & Agenda
 - b. Roll call Community Steering Committee (CSC) members
 - c. General Updates

- II. Approval of 11/19/2024 Meeting Notes and tonight's agenda** 5:10 pm
- **Maritza Garcia** (CSC Member, Community): motion to approve 11.19.25 notes and 1.28.25 agenda
 - **Silvia Calzada** (CSC Member, Community): seconds the motion
 - **Vote** - approved

- III. Annual Progress Update, Storymaps and Media** 5:15 pm
(*Amaya Hernandez and Nicole Bruns, CARB*)

Presenter: Amaya Hernandez

- CARB wants to incorporate community voice and narrative into the StoryMaps for the Annual Progress Update
- These StoryMaps have many uses, for example, they can be inspirational and a guide to other AB617 communities and this CSC can use it for their own community's needs—such as CSC recruitment
- Examples of previous StoryMaps:
 - [Community Air Protection Progress](#)
[Progreso de la protección atmosférica en la Comunidad](#)
 - [San Diego Air Pollution Control District*](#)
 - [Distrito de Control de la Contaminación Atmosférica de San Diego*](#)
 - <https://gis.carb.arb.ca.gov/portal/apps/storymaps/stories/8b91736f85fd45be8e5632c111b4e134>
- Examples of StoryMaps from other communities:
 - <https://gis.carb.arb.ca.gov/portal/apps/experiencebuilder/experience/?id=8bb7f18011ba48c0bafce87bd8620b24>
- Feedback shared via Mentimeter platform
- Direct follow-up questions and comments to:
 - **Amaya Hernandez, CARB** Amaya.Hernandez@arb.ca.gov
 - **Nicole Bruns, CARB** Nicole.Bruns@arb.ca.gov



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IV. Presentation: USDG Fuels Terminal Facility Project

5:35 pm

(Bill Frerking, Gustavo Monroy, Kevin LaBorne, USD Clean Fuels)

Presentation on USD Clean Fuel proposed project in National City on existing BNSF railroad site

The slide deck to the presentation was requested by email several times but not provided to SDAPCD. See video recording for slide deck.

Presenters: Bill Frerking, Gustavo Monroy and Kevin LaBorne

- USD Clean Fuels made a presentation on the proposed project and solicited support for the project.

Questions/Comments

- **Nicholas Paul** (CSC Member, Environmental Health Coalition) Question: How many Daily truck trips?
- **Bill Frerking** (USD Clean Fuels) Answer: once the facility opens will be approximately 70 trips per day
- **Nicholas Paul** (CSC Member, EHC): This is the equivalent of 25,550 trucks a year.
- **Jack Monger** (CSC Member, Industrial Environmental Association) Q: how will odors be controlled at this facility?
- **Kevin LaBorne** (USD Clean Fuels) A: this is not a processing plant; they are processed in other places in the U.S.
 - They have a vapor- control system that is a closed loop system. Connection line from truck to empty rail cars then vapors taken back to the origin. Closed loop vapor control line.
 - If there are any perceptible odors, it's never more than what you would experience at a gas station
 - Vapor-lock – more secure connection from hose to truck
- **Monseratt Hernandez** (CSC Member, Community) Comments: this business will be less than one mile from Kimball elementary (400 students) and close to 500 from homes in that area. The danger of fire that would start because this type of fuel, or that this fuel is less polluting. The trucks carrying this fuel once delivered by rail are not clean, they are diesel.
- **Bill Frerking** (USD Clean Fuels), they do not contract with the trucks; the closest school and church are on the other side of I5
- **Maritza Garcia** (CSC Member, Community) Comments: the designated truck route exists because there is already such an overburden of trucks in the community that it is required. This is not simply a business transaction; it affects community health and quality of life. the air doesn't know the borders. It is a burden to our community for the benefit of the rest. Reducing the trucks on the freeway is great for everyone else, but not at the expense of National City.
- **Phil Gibbons** (CSC Member, Port of San Diego) Comment/Q: Replacing fossil fuels with biogenic fuels is a mandate from the state; required at Port's fuel docs. There have been supply issues. Do you have any relationships with how you can help these truck loading at this site get into vehicles that use biogenic fuels? Are they open to understanding how they may approach getting alternative fuel vehicles into this space?
- **Bill Frerking** (USD Clean Fuels) Answer: The relationships with the trucking companies will be with their drivers.
- **Nicholas Paul** (CSC Member, EHC): FYI - The proposed facility is also less than 550 ft from the McKinley apartment complex (where 20 working class families currently live)
- **Jen Kozumplik** (California Air Resources Board, CARB) Comment: The DEIR do not do a comparison of truck emission vs. the efficiency of locomotive engine. CARB has done a comparative study and determined that hauling by locomotive is not more efficient than hauling by truck.
 - BNSF locomotives average is less than tier 2 (about a 1+) it is less clean than trucks
 - CARB Renewable Diesel Studies <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/resources/documents/low-emission-diesel-led-study-biodiesel-and-renewable-diesel-emissions-legacy>

V. Presentation & Potential Action: USDG Fuels Terminal Facility Project

6:05 pm

(Kyle Heiskala, Environmental Health Coalition)

Presenter: Kyle Heiskala

- Highlights how this project work in direct opposition to CERP goals #1-4
- Requests that his committee upholds the CERP, upholds protection of community health and sends a letter to national city to reject the USD Fuels project.

6:35 pm



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Questions/Comments

- **Elida Kocharian** (Community Member) Comment: *medical student, holds a degree in environmental engineering, would like to advocate for health equity. Medically concerned for the addition of 70 more diesel trucks a day, mainly traveling at night-childhood asthma is exacerbated at night*
 - *EIR does not analyze local coast wind patterns that would affect air pollution*
 - *Urges the CSC to not sacrifice the health of elders and youth*
- **Jonathan Torres** (CSC Member - SDGE) Comment: *works with SDGE in electrification of heavy duty and medium duty vehicles) also interacts with renewable diesel is a better option than regular diesel, PM is reduced somewhat. However does agree with Kyle and Elida and that the best thing to do would be to decarbonize completely. Recommends this project does not come to National City as it will add more gas emissions and DPM that currently isn't there.*

6:45 pm

7:00 pm

From Domingo Vigil to all panelists

Translation of **Alicia Sanchez's** (CSC Member, Community) Comment:

- *Bill and Gustavo I am a resident of National City and I do not agree with your business in my community, there is a lot of pollution already for you to bring more. The community of National City does not want you here because of the risk of spills on the streets and freeways and also for the peace of the residents because of all the noise from the trucks and rail that you want working seven days a week 24 hours a day.*
- a) **Maritza Garcia** (CSC Member, Community) Motion: CSC support EHC's sign on letter to reject approval of the USDG Fuels project proposal.
 - i) **Nicholas Paul** (CSC Member, EHC): Seconds the motion

Discussion:

- **Phil Gibbons** (CSC Member, POSD) Q: *Is the letter as written is a response to the EIR or submitted directly to National City?*
- **Kyle Heiskala**, (EHC) A: *It is submitted Directly to National City Mayor and Councilmembers. Project has not been agenzied yet, but could happen in the next couple of months*
- **Bradley Bang** (Community Member): *it is still clear National City will see an increase in emissions.*
 - *Although the USD Reps clearly presented the scope of this project it is still clear that National City will suffer from an increase in emissions. I support the proposal to sign on to the EHC letter*
- **Jack Monger** (CSC Member, IEA): *opposes the motion; believes it does not support CA state policy that has been voiced by our governor and legislature, acknowledges that there are need for transitional facilities such as this one for biofuel, biodiesel. So these facilities have to go somewhere. Make them as safe as possible.*
- **Jen Kozumplik** (CARB): *To summarize: CARB's comment letter states: to protect the local community, the project should be operated with the cleanest available locomotives (Tier 4 and ZE) and the cleanest available trucks.*
 - **CARB comment letter posted today:** <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/2025-01/CARB%20Comments%20-%20San%20Deigo%20Clean%20Fuels%20Transload%20Facility%20Project%20DEIR.pdf>
- **Sara Giobbi** (CSC Member, General Dynamics NASSCO): *will abstain-their company uses biodiesel and has been great for reducing emissions. would have been helpful to hear what CARBs analysis was, it's not just a policy, but many of us are going to be required to use biodiesel. It would be curious to understand what CARBs analysis was for how this fuel is to be distributed all over the state if not by railcar.*
- **Nicholas Paul** (CSC Member, EHC): *reaffirming the CERP is our primary role as a CSC. Trying to improve the air quality of the Portside specifically.*
- **Maritza Garcia** (CSC Member, Community): *echoes what Nick is saying, not that we are going against wanting these goals to be reached, but it doesn't need to happen at the expense of our community. We want to make sure we live in a safe community.*
- **Amaya Hernandez** (CARB), CARB is here also because committed to this CSC. CARB wants community input on the impacts of regulation, such as requiring biofuels.
- **EHC's sign on letter can be viewed here:** [https://www.sdapcd.org/content/dam/sdapcd/documents/capp/meetings/portside-csc/012825/Sign-on%20Letter%20\(USDG\)%20-%20Portside%20CSC-3.pdf](https://www.sdapcd.org/content/dam/sdapcd/documents/capp/meetings/portside-csc/012825/Sign-on%20Letter%20(USDG)%20-%20Portside%20CSC-3.pdf)
- **Monseratt Hernandez** (CSC Member, Community): *Que lo pongan en otra comunidad porque National*



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City?

- *Why not another community, why National City?*
- **Margarita Moreno** (CSC Member, Community): *Jack llevese El negocio cerca de su vecondario para que tenga aire mas limpio. Jack take the business close to your neighborhood for cleaner air.*

Shalem Counts the votes:

- a) Motion: CSC support EHC's sign on letter to reject approval of the USDG Fuels project proposal.
Motion passes 11 ayes to 2 nos, 4 abstain

VI. Public Comments

- Reserved for comments on items not listed on the agenda
 - Each speaker is limited to 3 minutes
- **Nicholas Paul** (CSC Member, EHC): *noticed that this time around there is a split meeting, panelists vs. non panelist—a little uncomfortable with that, hard to know who is present and who isn't. moving forward is there a way to make sure we're all in the same space moving forward?*
 - **Shalem Aboody-Lopez** (Facilitator, SDAPCD): *Makes it more transparent for everyone to be able to see everyone that is in the room. We can vote on the meeting format next time, so it's clear and we know how to proceed for future meetings. May need to institute a reminder for all CSC members to rename themselves at the beginning of each meeting*
 - Portside member list is available online here, [AB 617 Documents](#) under Portside Steering Committee Members
 - Meeting materials are saved here, we will ask all presenters to share their slide deck with us and we will put on the Portside meeting page here: <https://www.sdapcd.org/content/sdapcd/community/community-air-protection-program/portside-community/portside-meetings.html#v1-2d165369fd-item-fabc867886>
 - **Jack Monger** (CSC Member, IEA): *appreciates that you all devoted an ample amount of time to us discussing an extremely important issue. Everyone had a say and hope we can do it again in the future.*

VII. Closing Remarks

- **Maritza Garcia** (CSC Member, Community): motion to adjourn meeting
- **Silvia Calzada** (CSC Member, Community): seconds the motion
- **Vote** - approved

VIII. Adjourn