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July 7, 2023

The Honorable Pete Buttigieg  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE  
Washington DC 20590

**Re: Harbor Drive 2.0 Reduction of Truck Emissions at Ports Grant Application**

Dear Secretary Buttigieg:

On behalf of the AB 617 Portside Environmental Justice Steering Committee (Portside Community), we urge strong support of the grant application by the Port of San Diego (Port) for the Reduction of Truck Emissions at Port Facilities (RTEP) grant program. This application is in support of the Port's application for right of way funding for the Harbor Drive 2.0 Project. This project was prioritized by members of the community on the Land Use subcommittee during the community-driven development of the Portside Community's Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP). Furthermore, completion of Harbor Drive 2.0 project by year 2031 is one of the eleven goals identified in the CERP. The CERP was adopted by the San Diego Air Pollution Control District's (APCD) Governing Board in July 2021 and by the California Air Resources Board (CARB) in October 2021.

The Port of San Diego, in conjunction with regional partners at the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), have partnered to advance the Harbor Drive 2.0 concept. Harbor Drive 2.0 is a series of improvements proposed for Harbor Drive in the City of San Diego and the City of National City. This area is referred to as San Diego's working waterfront. The area includes multiple shipbuilding and ship repair facilities, as well as Naval Base San Diego. The project area is also adjacent to multiple historically disadvantaged neighborhoods, including Barrio Logan and Old Town National City.

Project improvements and outputs proposed in Harbor Drive 2.0 stand to provide significant benefits to the wide variety of users along the corridor. These users span from pedestrians, bicyclists, private vehicles, to freight movement, light commuter rail, and freight rail. The proposed improvements for Harbor Drive 2.0 include a dedicated truck lane, intelligent transportation systems, as well as environmental and safety upgrades along Harbor Drive that

Portside Environmental Justice Steering Committee  
San Diego/National City - California

[www.sdapcd.org/content/sdapcd/community/community-air-protection-program/portside-community.html](http://www.sdapcd.org/content/sdapcd/community/community-air-protection-program/portside-community.html)



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will improve air quality and noise in neighboring communities. The proposed improvements on Harbor Drive promote economic development by reducing freight travel times between marine terminals and freeway facilities through Intelligent Transportation System (ITS) technologies, and innovative multimodal physical improvements.

The Port of San Diego has a longstanding and collaborative working relationship with neighborhoods and stakeholders that border the Port's maritime industrial facilities. Funding from the RTEP program to advance Harbor Drive 2.0 is an investment in surface transportation that will have a transformative local and regional impact on the San Diego region. The Portside Community thanks you for your consideration of this application and urges your support for this request.

Sincerely,

AB 617 Portside Community Steering Committee