UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Stakeholder:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9 invites you to a meeting to help develop the scope of work for a health impact assessment (HIA) for the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. This scoping effort is intended to clarify the benefits of an HIA, describe its necessary elements, identify sources of information, and encourage the development of a port-wide HIA. The meeting is scheduled for **February 10, 2010, from 10:30a.m. to 2:45 p.m. at Bannings Landing Community Center.** I encourage you to join us, and ask you to confirm your attendance by **February 3, 2010**.

**Why is EPA Recommending an HIA?**

From 1997 to 2007, shipping volume more than doubled at the Port of Long Beach and nearly tripled at the Port of Los Angeles. While shipping volumes have declined over the last two years, the Ports' shipping volumes could double from 2007 levels by the year 2030, according to a joint report for the Ports. Although the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Reports for expansion projects include health risk assessment, those evaluations are project specific rather than port-wide. Additionally, those health risk assessments are not designed to consider baseline health conditions in neighboring communities.

Efforts to reduce air emissions through the Clean Trucks Program have been the most aggressive at any port complex in the world. The partnership significantly reduced the impact of diesel truck pollution on people living near the port facilities. While the Clean Truck Program and other efforts have yielded extensive environmental benefits, there are continuing concerns that recent and proposed port expansion projects could result in significant adverse impacts to air quality and to environmental justice communities. EPA has recommended that both Ports conduct an HIA to help identify a robust list of mitigation measures to offset cumulative and disproportionate health impacts on neighboring economically disadvantaged communities.

**Scoping Meeting and Next Steps**

EPA is convening this meeting to bring together stakeholders and begin a process to identify the needs, benefits, and scope of work for an HIA of proposed port-wide expansion activities. Assisting in this effort is Human Impact Partners, a nonprofit organization focused on work in the field of HIA. Human Impact Partners has participated in planning for an HIA at the Port of Oakland, and has been engaged with local stakeholders to build support for a similar study on the proposed Interstate 710 expansion.

Attached you will find the agenda for the meeting and a list of invitees. Also included is background information identifying the 5 steps to developing an HIA. EPA is pleased to fund and convene this scoping effort, which will focus on Step 2 (see background information on HIA). Input from this meeting will be used in the development of a port-wide HIA scoping proposal that will be distributed to all interested stakeholders in April 2010. That proposal will clarify the elements of an HIA. The next step will be for the community and the Ports to identify funding sources to conduct the HIA. While EPA will remain a partner in this effort, we look to the Ports and the community to lead the subsequent steps in the development of the HIA.

EPA is seeking broad representation from community groups, local governments, regulatory agencies and the Ports at this upcoming scoping meeting, but we do need to limit attendance to encourage a focused and productive discussion. To confirm your attendance or obtain additional information, please contact Jennifer Lucky, with Human Impact Partners, at (510) 740-0146 or by email at **jlucky@humanimpact.org**

Sincerely,

Steven John, Director
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Southern California Field Office

Enclosure
Agenda
Invitee List
Background Information on HIA