



# US EPA's Port Initiative & Community-Port Strategies

West Coast Collaborative Partners  
Meeting

September 4, 2014



# US EPA Ports Initiative: Improving Environmental Performance

Office of Transportation and Air Quality's Immediate Goal: Improve air quality & human health by reducing mobile source emissions as goods move from the water through ports/terminals to the landside supply chain.

- Regulation - New Engine/Vehicle & Emission Control Area
- Data & Tools
- Technology development & verification
- Diesel Emission Reduction Port Grants
- SmartWay Program
- Are there other things we can do?



# National Conversations on Ports

***National Conversation Webinars*** - Listening sessions focused on perspectives of different port stakeholders:

- 1. September 24, 2013:** Promoting Port Stakeholder Success: Collaborative Action with EPA- Focus on Transportation & Air Quality (Industry Focused)
- 2. January 14, 2014:** Goods Movement and Ports: Community Impacts & Collaborative Solutions (Community Focused)
- 3. March 4, 2014:** Advancing Solutions to Support More Sustainable Ports (Operational & Technology Focused)

**Ports Stakeholder Summit (April 4, 2014)** - An in-person meeting designed to set the stage for a port air quality initiative. Community groups from all 10 EPA regions were represented.



## **What We Heard: Existing disproportionate impacts may increase as a result of increasing global trade**

- Health effects are exacerbated by growth in trade
- Communities have a long history of evaluating health effects of diesel
- Near port communities want Health Impact Assessments (HIAs) and other tools to take local action
- Ports are implementing efficiency & emission reduction measures but there are barriers to improvement – technical, infrastructure & monetary
- Most ports do not have basic emissions inventories against which to judge emission reduction strategies or progress





## What we heard: Need for a collaborative process to address community concerns

- Ports issues cross government jurisdictions
- Federal coordination is lacking; need to resolve conflicting goals, messages and actions
- Communities face technical challenges—accessing information, access to air quality monitors and a voice in the decision making process
- Concerns extend beyond air quality--multi-media approach is needed
- Lack of interest in another port recognition program





## US EPA Ports Initiative: Focus Areas

- Continue stakeholder process- Mobile Source Technical Review Sub-Committee
  - Barriers & Incentives for technology development and deployment
  - Data, Inventory guidance & performance metrics
- Strategies for Community-Port engagement
- Federal agency coordination
- Internal EPA coordination/resource leveraging
  - New DERA Port Grants



# Community Engagement: Priority Areas

## Capacity Building for Near Port Communities

In conjunction with EPA's Office of Environmental Justice & EPA Regions, develop strategies for successful community–port engagement:

- Identify models and examples of effective community-port-government engagement
- Identify data that port communities need to quantify environmental/health impacts
- Facilitate understanding of Community/Port concerns and operations
- Citizen-based evaluation and assessment projects (data)
- Possible pilot workshop funding
- Mobile Source Technical Review Sub-committee work group



# Community Engagement: Priority Areas

## Creating a Bridge to Federal Partners

- Federal efforts currently focused on increasing capacity through rapid infrastructure development
  - Increase consideration of health impacts
  - EPA voice in federal infrastructure policy development can help make health and environment part of conversation
- Encourage early community involvement on federal projects
- Build a regional-based community resource list with contacts for Federal agencies & funding options





Website:

<http://www.epa.gov/otaq/ports/>

Contact Us Anytime at  
[talkaboutports@epa.gov](mailto:talkaboutports@epa.gov)





# Appendix



# Charge to MSTRS

## **Provide Advise on:**

- 1) How to effectively measure air quality and GHG performance of ports and/or terminals within ports.**
- 2) Design elements for an EPA lead voluntary program to improve environmental performance as goods move through ports.**