



THE SALVADORAN-AMERICAN
LEADERSHIP AND EDUCATIONAL FUND

FONDO SALVADOREÑO-AMERICANO
PARA EL LIDERAZGO Y LA EDUCACIÓN

August 21, 2017

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Port of Los Angeles
425 S. Palos Verdes Street
P.O. Box 151
San Pedro, CA 90733

Port of Long Beach
4801 Airport Plaza Drive
Long Beach, CA 90815

RE: Strengthening the CAAP for Clean Air NOW

Dear Port of Long Beach and Port of Los Angeles Commissioners,

On behalf of the Salvadoran American Leadership and Educational Fund, I urge you accelerate efforts in the Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP) to clean up Southern California's horrible air pollution. The CAAP as currently written sets zero-emissions targets for 2035, but doesn't incentivize trucks to adopt lower emissions standards until 2023. Los Angeles has the worst air pollution in the country, and we need to do everything we can right now to clean our air and provide communities with a healthier environment in which to work, play, and raise children.

SALEF is a non-profit organization dedicated to helping minority communities fight for their rights, and to help fund students in need get a higher education to ensure their success. Our work is rooted in social justice, political access, and economic prosperity, and promoting progressive policy goals in the United States and throughout the world. We advocate for the democratic advancement of all people, with a special emphasis on Latinos, Central Americans, and immigrants in the United States and the people of El Salvador.

The pollution coming from Ports activity affects everyone in Southern California, particularly Latinos and other communities of color who make up the majority of residents living in the Harbor area. Moreover, working class communities and communities of color living near the 710 freeway corridor also bear a disproportionate burden from our region's dirty air, as diesel trucks leaving the Ports take the 710 into the heart of Los Angeles, spewing pollution that negatively affects the health and well-being of these communities.

I call on you to take action now to address this important health issue. Accelerate the CAAP by incentivizing trucks now – not six years from now – starting in 2018 and utilizing the most advanced existing technology to get diesel trucks off our roads now. The technology is here – let's put it to use cleaning up our air for all of our communities.

Sincerely,

Carlos Antonio H. Vaquerano
Executive Director

*Organizations listed for
Identification purposes only*