

December, 2007

Season's Greetings!

As 2007 winds down to a close, it's a good time to take stock of all we have accomplished during the past year and to begin planning how to reach our goals in the coming year of reducing air pollution and improving jobs at the Port of Oakland.

**Please join us at our next  
Coalition meeting  
Thursday, January 10 at 4:00pm  
155 Myrtle Street (at 3<sup>rd</sup> St), Oakland.**

2007 was a year of great expansion and high productivity for the Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports. We can all be proud of what we have achieved. Here are a few highlights:

**Building Bridges & Building a Movement**

The Coalition has grown to include more than 30 community, labor, environmental, interfaith, small business and policy organizations, including the Alameda Labor Council and the Mayor's two new Port Commissioners.



ACORN organizers knocked on almost every door in West Oakland. Teamsters organizers spoke to more than 2,200 truck drivers. West Oakland residents

and truck drivers joined together in a series of house meetings to look at common issues and solutions around the broken Port trucking system.

**Warning Signs: Documenting Problems**

ACORN surveyed 200 West Oakland households. 37% of the residents were unemployed, and 90% were actively looking for work. Several groundbreaking studies were issued about the serious consequences caused by the broken Port trucking system. The reports document the health problems and economic costs to our community. They studies include:

- The East Bay Alliance for Sustainable Economy published, *Taking the Low Road*, the first in-depth study of truck driver economics at the Port of Oakland which found that drivers are not earning enough to meet their families' basic needs.
- The Natural Resources Defense Council released a study showing that truck drivers face greater health risks such as asthma, cardiovascular disease, birth defects, premature births and respiratory illness from breathing diesel exhaust.

**The High Road: Offering Solutions**

**The Solution is Simple  
A Clean Trucks Program that Works**

- Hire drivers as employees, not independent contractors
- Operate only clean emission trucks
- Create a strong local hire program for Oakland

**Delivering Our Message: Gaining Political Support**

Throughout the year, coalition members met with the Mayor, County Supervisors, City Council members and State Assembly members to deliver our message of how to fix the broken Port Trucking System. The Mayor's Port Task Force included recommendations that address the campaign. Assembly Member Sandré Swanson held a hearing to look at the problems facing port drivers and the surrounding communities. We continue to have on-going meetings with Port of Oakland staff to discuss policy details of the Clean Trucks Program. We submitted suggested policy language for local hire, environmental and community impact, and labor standards.

**On the Move: Taking Action**

We have participated in numerous creative activities to focus public attention on the problems at the Port including:

- The "Drive For Justice" bus tour: More than 75 clergy and community members met with truck drivers and West Oakland activists.
- Town Hall Meeting: More than 375 truck drivers, West Oakland residents and union members were in attendance. As a result, Port Executive Director Omar Benjamin committed to work with the Coalition.
- Port of Oakland Rally: Nearly 300 truck drivers, union members and West Oakland residents demonstrated at the Port.
- Drivers' Petition: Several drivers delivered a petition to the Port Commissioners signed by more than 1,250 drivers stating their wish to become employees and have the trucking companies take responsibility for their trucks.



**Truck drivers meet with Port of Oakland Executive Director Omar Benjamin.**