

RECEIVED

MAY 28 2016



City of Tacoma

Council Member Ryan N. Mello

May 24, 2016

Maia Bellon
Director, Washington Department of Ecology
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504

ICF International
710 Second Ave, Ste 550
Seattle, WA 98104

Dear WA Department of Ecology and Cowlitz County Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Millennium Bulk Terminals-Longview LLC Coal Export terminal project.

As the deputy mayor of Tacoma I still have many environmental concerns which I am not confident were fully addressed in the DEIS.

Transporting coal through our region by train will significantly increase our already substantial rail traffic. Pierce County continues to struggle with air quality, and increased traffic congestion and additional idling times at crossings will only serve to exacerbate the situation. A further increase of diesel-powered coal trains will continue to degrade our air quality and will push back the progress we have made in achieving Attainment for Particulate Matter 2.5 emissions.

Increased track use also present a public safety issue as emergency responders may be delayed waiting for additional trains to pass. The ability of fire and police to respond quickly is critical to emergency services, and I am concerned increased rail and vehicle traffic near train crossings could cause serious delays.

I also worry that increased noise, air pollution, vibration, and other issues might negatively affect our waterfront and hurt property values. We have worked hard to restore our water ways and make them a world class destination, and I fear that the negative impact to property values and decline in quality of life to residents living beside the tracks would hurt our already struggling economy.

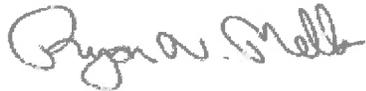
Being located on the Sound, water quality is a top issue for Tacoma residents. I share concerns that increased pollution would affect not just our population who enjoy the water recreationally, but also threaten the local fishing economy and the health of Puget Sound.

We are still paying to clean up the scars of our region's industrial past, and as we move forward I hope we will not make the same mistakes again. We need to shift our focus to green and renewable energy sources as we look to the future.

I am not convinced the impacts this project will have on communities through which the trains run have been fully mitigated, and I would encourage Cowlitz County and the Washington Department of Ecology to critically examine the environmental costs to our region.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to comment on this project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ryan Mello". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'R' and a distinct 'M'.

Deputy Mayor Ryan Mello



City of Tacoma
Office of the City Council
747 Market Street, Room 1200
Tacoma, Washington 98402-3766

05/25/16 576 W

PRESORTED
FIRST CLASS



U.S. POSTAGE



ZIP 98402
02 1W
000140383C

ICF International
710 Second Ave, Ste #550
Seattle, WA 98104

07 557-158 98104

