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May 23, 2024

Administrator Michael Regan
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Administrator Regan,

SUBJECT: Letter of Support for the Port of Los Angeles EPA Clean Ports Program Application

We strongly support the application submitted by the Port of Los Angeles (POLA) to the United States Environmental Protection Agency's Clean Ports Program to advance the deployment of zero-emission (ZE) port equipment. The deployment of ZE equipment at POLA would be the largest deployment of this equipment in the country and would serve to enhance the operations of the busiest port complex in the Western Hemisphere.

POLA, in collaboration with its private sector marine terminal operator partners and the Harbor Community Benefit Foundation (HCBF), requests funding to accelerate its transition towards ZE on-terminal operations. This ambitious project will significantly reduce air pollution in and around the Port, aligning with the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Clean Ports Program objectives through the deployment of human-operated zero-emission cargo handling equipment (CHE) and the enhancement of electric vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure. This project will not only drive adoption of ZE port operations and emission reductions but will also emphasize the Administration's commitment to the Justice40 Initiative principles of community engagement and job creation in disadvantaged areas that are overburdened by pollution.

As an economic engine, POLA processes higher volumes of containerized cargo than any port nationwide, accounting for \$292 billion in cargo value in 2023 and impacting the economies and workforce of congressional district across the country. POLA's operations also create and sustain millions of jobs, including 1 in 15 jobs in Los Angeles, 1 in 19 jobs in Southern California, and 1.4 million jobs throughout the United States.

However, the port and goods movement industry are also major sources of pollution leading to poor air quality and nonattainment for several criteria pollutants. According to the 2024 Clean Ports Program Disadvantaged Community County List, Los Angeles County qualifies as a

nonattainment area for particulate matter and a severe nonattainment area for ozone. These environmental burdens are especially pronounced in the communities surrounding POLA, where 15 of the 20 surrounding census tracts are considered disadvantaged by the Climate and Economic Justice Screening Tool.

Through its Clean Air Action Plan, POLA has set a goal to transition its entire fleet of diesel-powered CHE to ZE alternatives by 2030. Since 2005, the CAAP has reduced emissions of diesel particulate matter by 88 percent, nitrogen oxides (NOx) by 62 percent, and sulfur oxide by 97 percent. The proposed grant funding will further that progress and help meet ZE goals by:

- funding the acquisition of approximately 400 pieces of ZE CHE and associated charging infrastructure to replace nearly 30% of POLA's diesel-burning CHE fleet;
- procuring 250 ZE drayage trucks and associated charging infrastructure;
- installing cutting-edge power management systems with solar generation and battery storage to build the electrical capacity needed to power additional ZE CHE;
- establishing one of the first shore-power support systems for auto carrier vessels to reduce pollution from vessels at berth, and
- eliminating nearly 41,500 tons of carbon dioxide emissions and 55 tons of NOx emissions annually.

POLA and HCBF will also implement a unique and ambitious community-driven grant program that will empower port-adjacent, Justice40 communities to award grants for ZE equipment and supporting activities, including community engagement and workforce development. The proposal includes robust, ongoing community engagement and accountability with the surrounding community managed by HCBF.

POLA is an industry leader in the transition to human-operated ZE port technology and this project's large-scale deployment of ZE equipment will be transformative for POLA, help drive commercialization and further establish the nationwide market for port-related ZE technology. We are confident that the successful implementation of this project will make significant pollution reductions to benefit adjacent frontline communities, the Southern California region, and help California meet its ambitious climate goals. This investment will also serve as a model for ports nationwide, and globally, to accelerate emission reductions while creating good-paying job opportunities.

We strongly believe POLA's proposed project exemplifies the Clean Ports Program objectives and appreciate your thorough consideration of this application. Thank you for your continued leadership and unwavering commitment to cleaner air, healthier communities, and a more resilient and sustainable maritime industry.

Sincerely,

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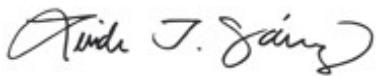
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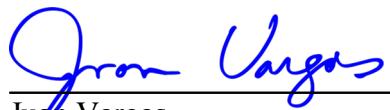
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