

To: Richmond City Council Members
440 Civic Center Plaza
Richmond, CA 94804

Re: Ordinance to protect the people of Richmond from serious health effects of coal and pet coke dust

Dear City Councilors,

You have the power to pass an ordinance that protects us from contamination of coal and petroleum coke (pet coke) dust. Massive amounts of coal have been coming to the Levin-Richmond Terminal on mile-long open-car trains; pet coke is trucked in from Rodeo. Both are stored in open piles at the terminal before being loaded onto ships that transport them overseas.

Richmond residents along the rail line and near the terminal see this dust outside on our cars and window sills. What we don't see is the coal dust entering our lungs. It's in the air we breathe in our homes and where we work and play.

Coal and pet coke dust contain substances that cause severe, permanent harm to people of all ages, especially kids. These include:

Mercury: kills brain and nerve cells in all living creatures, including humans; leads to lifelong developmental problems in young people;

Arsenic: causes death by cancer of the bladder, lungs, and/or skin;

Cadmium: causes death by cancer and kidney failure;

Lead: causes life-altering developmental problems;

Silica: causes death by lung cancer.

Since you have the power to protect us from these toxic substances, don't you also have the responsibility?

This is an emergency! Here's what needs to happen now: Pass the ordinance that will prohibit new facilities from storing and handling coal and pet coke and phase out existing operations over a period not to exceed three years. The people of Richmond are expecting you to do the right thing and protect us.

Sincerely and urgently,

signature

print name

ZIP code

date

email or phone (text)