

Digest of Green Reports and Studies

Title	<i>Taking the Low Road – How Independent Contracting at the Port of Oakland Endangers Public Health, Truck Drivers and Economic Growth</i>
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Summary	The purpose of this report is to “better understand the interaction between the working conditions facing drivers at the Port of Oakland and a policy solution to address the harmful effects of port trucking.” The authors conducted a survey of truck drivers in order to better understand the working conditions and wages of independent truck drivers. The report presents an analysis of the survey results. The results found that trucking firms have mitigated certain responsibilities because they often use independent truck drivers; for example, the burden of newly proposed state air regulations will be put on these independent contractors (most of whom are unlikely to be able to meet the new regulations on their own). Four solutions to the problems identified in the report are evaluated; the best alternative states that the Port of Oakland will better succeed at “meeting its goals by entering into concession agreements.” These agreements would require port trucking firms to directly hire drivers and “to invest in clean trucks.”
Key Findings	The Port of Oakland is a major source of air pollution due to the large amount of trucks, trains, diesel-powered ships, and cargo-handling equipment that are located at or have access to the Port. Independent truck drivers have to take on the burden of labor costs such as truck maintenance and healthcare by themselves, which will make it even more difficult for them to meet the added costs of any new regulations set forth by the Air Resources Board.
Recommendations	The report suggests that the only way for port trucking companies, the Port of Oakland, and independent truck drivers to be able to meet new regulations is to enact a policy that includes these points: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “The port should require that all port trucking firms that access the marine terminals enter into concession agreements.” • These concession agreements should include community, environmental, and labor standards, and impose specific requirements that the trucking companies must follow to meet these standards. • A nonbiased committee should be established to “monitor and oversee all aspects of this policy.”
Definition of “Green”	N/A
Methodology	Survey, interview, literature research.
Data Sources Cited	U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor Statistics, California Employment Development Department.
Report Geography	City of Oakland, San Francisco Bay Area, City of Los Angeles, City of Long Beach.
Green Occupations Cited	None.
Green Industries Cited	None.
Keywords	Port of Oakland; Port of Long Beach; Port of Los Angeles; California; California Air Resources Board; independent contractors; trucking; port shippers; pollution; asthma; emissions; air regulation.
Legislation Cited	“Draft Regulation Order: Regulation to Control Emissions from In-Use On-Road Diesel-Fueled Heavy-Duty Drayage Trucks,” California Air Resources Board, July 6, 2007.
Bibliography (Y/N)	Y
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