



Cheryl Davila

Councilmember
District 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
September 24, 2019

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Cheryl Davila, Councilmember Kate Harrison and Councilmember Sophie Hahn

Subject: Letter in Support of SB 210, Implementing a Comprehensive Heavy Duty Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program

RECOMMENDATION

Send a Letter to Governor Gavin Newsom In Support of SB 210 by Senator Connie Leyva, authorizing the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop and implement a comprehensive heavy duty vehicle inspection and maintenance program, similar to Smog Check requirements for other vehicles, and direct the city clerk or designee to send a letter to our state representatives.

BACKGROUND

Most Californians would be very surprised to find out that, while their passenger cars are subject to Smog Check, there is no similar requirement for diesel big rigs other than a minimal smoke test. SB 210 would improve air quality and public health in communities choked by smog, protect our changing climate from Super pollutants. These pollutants not only accelerate climate change but also are harmful to human health by irritating the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs and contributing to heart and lung diseases, asthma, cancer, and even premature death.

Air pollution has dire consequences on the health and safety of both people and the environment. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nationwide 7.4% of adults and 8.6% of children have been diagnosed with asthma. In California, the numbers are significantly higher: 13.1% of adults and 12.5% of children have been diagnosed with asthma. Lower income and minority groups are disproportionately affected by asthma due to their increased exposure to air pollution.

Our neighborhoods are right next to Interstate 80, a major freeway corridor heavily used by diesel freight trucks daily traveling to and from the Port of Oakland. In addition, major rail lines traverse through West Berkeley Neighborhoods with diesel freight trains. West Berkeley neighborhoods have one of the highest asthma rates in Alameda County.

Diesel exhaust is produced when an engine burns diesel fuel. It is a complex mixture of thousands of gases and 40 toxic air contaminants. These include many known or suspected cancer-causing substances, such as benzene, arsenic and formaldehyde. It also contains other harmful pollutants, including nitrogen oxides.

SB 210 authorizes CARB to establish test procedures, require motor vehicles to pass the test procedures in order to register or operate in the state, and allow a streamlined process for the operators of fleets with established compliance histories. We believe this system would allow

the vast majority of trucks to pass without difficulty, while it would require improvements from the small fraction of vehicles that generate most of the pollution.

For the protection of our air, climate, and health, I respectfully ask for your support for SB 210.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There is no fiscal impact to send a letter.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Should SB 210 be signed into law by the Governor, it will protect our communities, health, wildlife and climate.

CONTACT PERSON

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Letter.
2. Link to Text of SB 210:
http://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billTextClient.xhtml?bill_id=201920200SB210

Governor Gavin Newsom
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

To: Governor Gavin Newsom

Date: September 24, 2019

Re: SB 210 Heavy Duty Vehicle Inspection and Maintenance Program – SUPPORT

Dear Governor Newsom:

The City of Berkeley supports SB 210 by Senator Connie Leyva, which would authorize the California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop and implement a comprehensive heavy-duty vehicle inspection and maintenance program, similar to Smog Check requirements for light-duty vehicles which has been in place since 1984.

Most Californians would be very surprised to find out that, while their passenger cars are subject to Smog Check, there is no similar requirement for diesel big rigs other than a minimal smoke test. SB 210 would improve air quality and public health in communities choked by smog, protect our changing climate from black carbon – a powerful super pollutant – and create a level playing field for truckers who take the time and money to maintain their vehicles adequately.

Air pollution has dire consequences on the health and safety of both people and the environment. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nationwide 7.4% of adults and 8.6% of children have been diagnosed with asthma. In California, the numbers are significantly higher: 13.1% of adults and 12.5% of children have been diagnosed with asthma. Lower income and minority groups are disproportionately affected by asthma due to their increased exposure to air pollution. These pollutants are preventing many of our communities – particularly in low-income communities of color – from breathing healthy air. Particulates not only accelerate climate change but also are harmful to human health by irritating the eyes, nose, throat, and lungs and contributing to heart and lung diseases, asthma, cancer, and even premature death.

Our neighborhoods are right next to Interstate 80, a major freeway corridor heavily used by diesel freight trucks daily traveling to and from the Port of Oakland. In addition, major rail lines traverse through West Berkeley Neighborhoods with diesel freight trains. West Berkeley neighborhoods has some of the highest asthma rates in Alameda County.

“Adoption of comprehensive heavy-duty vehicle inspection and maintenance program” is a proposed action of both the multi-agency California Sustainable Freight Action Plan of 2016 and CARB’s State Implementation Plan of 2017, the state’s strategy to attain health-based federal air quality standards. SB 210 would make this proposal a reality and allow Californians to breathe easier.

The bill would authorize CARB to establish test procedures, require motor vehicles to pass the test procedures in order to register or operate in the state, and allow a streamlined process for the operators of fleets with established compliance histories. We believe this system would allow the vast majority of truckers to pass without difficulty, while it would require improvements from the small fraction of vehicles that generate most of the pollution.

SB 210 is a very important measure that is good for our air, climate and health and levels the playing field for owners and operators who take the time and spend the money to keep their trucks in compliance with state emission regulations.

We respectfully ask that you will sign SB 210 into law that will be good for our air, climate and health.

Best regards,

The Berkeley City Council

cc: Senator Nancy Skinner

Assemblymember Buffy Wicks