

Port of Hueneme Expansion: How Would it Impact Us?



The Port of Hueneme has been growing its import shipments beyond its space to store them while waiting to be trucked out of Oxnard. They are applying to the City of Oxnard to build a 34 acre temporary storage lot for imported cars, and eventually an even larger 250 acre permanent one, both in South Oxnard.

The temporary expansion site would be for 3- 5 years at the end of Saviers Rd. below Hueneme Rd. across from the Southwinds neighborhood, one of the most densely populated neighborhoods in Oxnard. The Port has provided little public information about their long-term plans for a permanent expansion site, which would be built on farmland outside the city limits next to the Tierra Vista neighborhood.

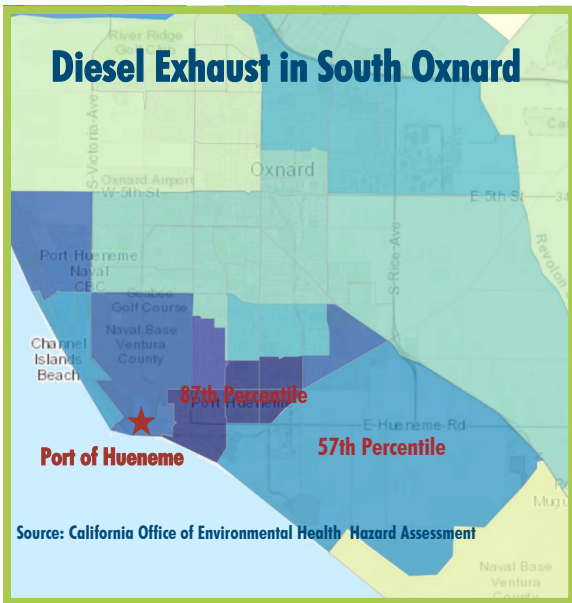


Pollution, Air Quality, and Community Health

Diesel particulate matter (diesel PM) is released by the tailpipe exhaust from trucks, buses, trains, ships and other diesel engines. The highest levels of diesel PM are in neighborhoods near ports, rail yards and freeways, where people are exposed to diesel PM by breathing air containing diesel exhaust. Very small particles of diesel PM can reach deep into lungs and contribute to a range of health problems such as heart and lung disease.

According to the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, **neighborhoods in South Oxnard near the Port already have higher levels of diesel emissions than 87% of other areas in California**, with levels three times higher than other neighborhoods in Oxnard. Communities near bigger ports like Long Beach and West Oakland have some of the worst air pollution in California.

The proposed short-term project has the capacity to store 5,000 cars, which result in pollution from cars brought into the port by ship, then moved daily between the port and storage site, before being transported out of Oxnard on diesel trucks. The Port has not provided information on how much it will expand long-term or what the pollution impacts would be.



Port Storage Areas in South Oxnard Before and After



More Heavy Industry on South Oxnard's Coast

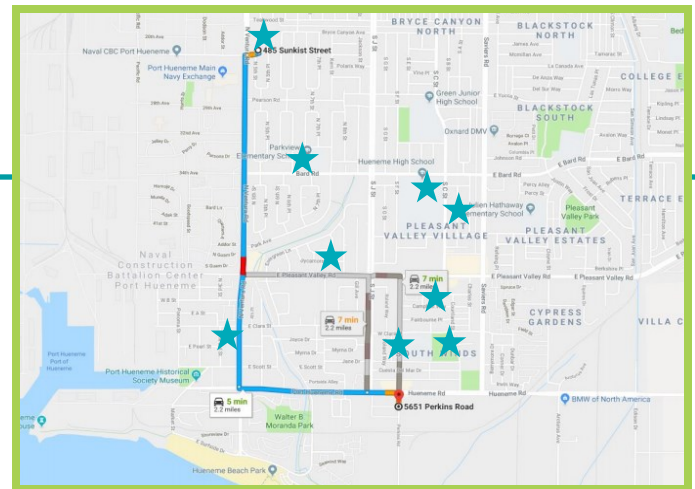
South Oxnard residents live near the coast but feel cut off from the beach by a wall of heavy industrial facilities.

The State Coastal Conservancy, the Nature Conservancy, and the City of Oxnard have been working for years to restore Ormond Beach to improve access to the beach from South Oxnard. The proposed short-term port expansion area has been envisioned for many years as a community park called Gateway Park that would open up South Oxnard to the coast. But the planned expansion would complete the wall of heavy industrial sites between South Oxnard families and the beach.



Low-Income Communities Already Burdened by Pollution

The areas most impacted by the port's expansion plans are some of Ventura County's most densely populated and low-income neighborhoods of primarily immigrant families. Most impacted will be the Southwinds and Cypress neighborhoods, including Squires public housing, Villa Cesar Chavez farmworker housing, and the primarily indigenous Mixteco community along Cuesta Del Mar. These communities already face pollution from the nearby power plant, toxic waste site, factories, and heavy pesticide use. In fact, the census tract where the project will be located is considered by the state of California to be more burdened by pollution than 98% of other census tracts in the state. In addition to pollution from ships entering the city through the harbor and trucks leaving the city along Hueneme Rd., imported cars would be shuttled daily from the Port Hueneme Sunkist Gate to the storage lot, passing by 5 elementary schools, 1 high school, 2 community parks, low income housing and a community health clinic, impacting several thousand young children who are more sensitive to air pollution. Vehicles not regularly in use that start and run cold produce much more pollution than ordinary cars on the road.



The Kind of Jobs We Need?

For generations, the Port of Hueneme has created many good jobs in our community for union longshore workers on the docks. But over time, more and more jobs have shifted to expansion areas offsite, often with private companies that offer much lower wages and benefits. **After temporary construction of the storage lot has finished, the expansion will only create nine jobs! This includes two security guards and seven drivers, which will pay near minimum wage and provide insecure work depending on unpredictable shipments.**

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