



Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority

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ALAMEDA CORRIDOR REAPS SIGNIFICANT AIR QUALITY BENEFITS

ACTA Study Finds That Consolidation of Rail Lines, Elimination of Grade Crossings, Reduction of Traffic Congestion Has Resulted in Air Emissions Benefits To Region

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LOS ANGELES COUNTY – The Alameda Corridor has produced significant air quality benefits to the South Coast Air Basin since opening in 2002, according to a new study commissioned by the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA). ACTA released the study findings as the Alameda Corridor approaches the third anniversary of its opening on April 15, 2005.

Designed to improve the efficiency of transporting cargo from the Los Angeles and Long Beach ports to the rest of the nation, the Alameda Corridor's operation has also resulted in significant air emission reductions. According to the ACTA study, the emission reductions have resulted from the consolidation of freight rail operations and the alleviation of traffic congestion at the more than 200 rail crossings in the Southland.

ACTA also reported that the performance of the Corridor has steadily improved over its first three years of operation. The total number of trains using the Corridor has increased from just over 14,000 trains in the first year of operation to more than 16,000 in the third year, representing a 12.5% increase. The number of containers transported via the Corridor has increased by more than 33.9% since 2002, from 4,117 containers per day to 5,514 containers per day in 2004.

"This report proves that we can move goods, accommodate growth and still continue to improve our air quality", said Los Angeles City Councilwoman and ACTA Chair Janice Hahn. "The Alameda Corridor is not only allowing us to move goods more efficiently, it has improved the quality of life for people living in the Harbor Area and throughout the region. Our air quality should continue to be our priority and I am counting on ACTA to continue to lead the charge."

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The recently completed Air Quality Benefits Report reviewed various factors associated with the Corridor's operation, including:

- Consolidation of pre-existing rail lines into one direct route downtown;
- Elimination of potential accidents at more than 200 at-grade crossings;
- Elimination of vehicular and mass transit wait times at grade crossings; and
- Increased rail efficiencies that allow more cargo to be transported by rail.

The Air Quality Benefits Report found that greater air emission reductions will result in the future from better utilization of the Corridor, because trains generate significantly less pollution than the number of trucks (250-280) needed to move an equivalent volume of cargo. During the first three years of its operation, the Alameda Corridor's air quality benefits to the South Coast Air Basin (SCAB) included:

- Elimination of 3,863 total tons of pollutants
- Reduction of 1,169 tons of Nitrous Oxide (NOX)
- Reduction of 49 tons of Particulate Matter (PM¹⁰)

The ACTA study also assessed the projected air quality benefits that will result from operation of the Alameda Corridor in 2005 and in 2012. The analysis determined that total emission reductions in 2012 would amount to 4,142 total tons of pollutants, including 3,236 tons of NOX and 45 tons of PM¹⁰. The projected air quality benefits assume increased use of on-dock rail facilities and completion of a new near-dock rail facility. Benefits would be even greater if ACTA's proposed initiative for a shuttle train is implemented.

"Once implemented, ACTA's Expanded Mission will address the steady increase of cargo moving through the ports while continuing to reduce air pollution and traffic congestion," said Long Beach City Councilman and ACTA Vice Chair Frank Colonna. "As ACTA celebrates its third anniversary, the Corridor will continue to be instrumental in strengthening our economy and developing a comprehensive, balanced approach to goods movement in Southern California."