

April 7, 2025

Hello Melanie & Port of Stockton commissioners,

I am again writing to ask the commissioners to agendaize GSNR's wood pellet project and invite scientists to speak. Secondly, we request a joint meeting with the Port staff and local partners to discuss comments the Port of Stockton submitted on the project.

In early 2024, GSNR signed an MOU with the controversial multinational energy-corporation, Drax. Not only does Drax have a proven track record of exacerbating climate change,¹ harming rural communities,² and devastating forest ecosystems throughout North America,^{3,4} they most recently have cropped up in the news due to an unfair dismissal case around whistleblowing on Drax's greenwashing.⁵

At the height of Drax's public exposure for using wood from Canadian old-growth forests,⁶ Rowaa Ahmar was hired. What she found was a "level of chaos... never seen before." When an internal investigation confirmed the BBC Panorama reporting, Ms. Ahmar claims her whistleblowing led to her unfair dismissal.

While this case plays out in court, it is clear that Port of Stockton, as well as its workers, should carefully consider working with GSNR and Drax, who have both demonstrated a lack of care for laborers. As a reminder, GSNR opposed the prevailing wage bill in 2022, illustrating they aren't serious about supporting good-paying jobs.⁷

Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to hearing from you.

Respectfully,

Rita Vaughan Frost

¹ <https://ember-energy.org/latest-insights/drax-co2-emissions-biomass/>

² <https://unearthed.greenpeace.org/2022/09/26/drax-accused-environmental-racism-further-pollution-claims-against-wood-pellet-mills-us/>

³ <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-68381160>

⁴ <https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2021/07/07/american-south-biomass-energy-mg-dp-nws-orig.cnn>

⁵ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/2025/03/06/drax-employee-sacked-after-accusing-company-greenwashing/>

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ <https://goldrushcam.com/sierrasuntimes/index.php/news/local-news/37471-rural-county-representatives-of-california-opposed-prevailing-wage-bill-for-forestry-projects-clears-first-committee>

Rodriguez, Melanie

From: Mary Elizabeth <mebeth@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, April 7, 2025 11:50 AM
To: Rodriguez, Melanie
Subject: 4.7.2025 Port Commission Meeting

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the Port. Please exercise caution.

Greetings,

I recall a lesson I learned from Dr. Jeffery Mount about resiliency and resiliency needs to be an essential focus at time for our community. The Port will be impacted by these times of imposing tariff and resultant tariff responses from our overseas markets. Resiliency requires consideration of needs and wants and I appreciate the consideration of a strategic plan and sharing of goals and values with the public.

I hope in the next couple of months that the Port Commission will hold a meeting during which coalition scientist can present some more of the potential impacts and deficiencies in the GSNR CEQA document that if implemented would increase greenhouse gas emissions because there were insufficient mitigation measures and which are required for other projects across our state. Trees are a vital part of climate change resiliency.

Also, I received notice of a UC Berkeley Project that may be of interest. I have seen some of their prior years analyses and they do a very good job summarizing important information for our community.

Date: Wednesday, May 7, 2024

Time: 2:30-4:30pm PDT over zoom

Zoom registration for this meeting:

https://berkeley.zoom.us/meeting/register/f_ddDz8ATEOtW4z_oxEB2Q

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email with the Zoom details and a calendar link. For those on the UCB campus: you can join us in **534 Davis Hall**

We have 7 Berkeley engineering student design teams this semester. Each team will present an ~8-minute overview of their strategy for **reducing air pollution in Stockton and San Joaquin Valley**.

Topics addressed:

- shipping emissions
- wood pellets project
- air quality monitoring
- air quality data access
- traffic emissions (Hwy 4)
- pesticide application (Stanislaus County)
- indoor air filtration

The students are working hard this semester, and your presence will be a meaningful part of their learning experience.

Tina Chow and Courtney Turkatte, UC Berkeley

Peace,

Mary Elizabeth, M.S., R.E.H.S.