



CITY OF MARTINEZ

**CITY COUNCIL AGENDA
October 15, 2014**

TO: Mayor and City Council
FROM: Jim Jakel, Interim City Manager
SUBJECT: Rail Transportation Safety
DATE: October 9, 2013

RECOMMENDATION:

- A) Approve the attached resolution related to rail transportation safety; or
- B) Provide alternate direction to staff related to rail transportation safety.

BACKGROUND:

At the City Council meeting of October 5, Vice Mayor Menesini referred to the proposed resolution relating to rail transportation safety and asked that it be presented to the Council. The Public Safety Subcommittee has been involved in public discussions pertaining to the transportation of crude oil by rail for the past several months. The Martinez Environmental Group has been advocating for the adoption of a resolution focused on crude oil by rail. During this same time, Councilmember Avila Farias has engaged in discussions on this general topic with the League of California Cities. The City Council has also heard concerns expressed under public comments related to the safety of rail transportation and specifically the transportation of Bakken crude.

Staff has reviewed the State of California's (through its Interagency Rail Safety Working Group) recently released report dated June 10, 2014. The Report provides a series of recommendations to improve rail safety and related emergency response. It should be noted that the legal authority, staff expertise and financial resources to deal effectively with the technical areas of rail regulation are in the purview of the State and Federal governments.

The attached resolution proposed for City Council approval is intended to encourage the agencies charged with the responsibility for rail safety to be vigilant. It asks for efforts to be expedited and that safety take priority over cost-effectiveness. It supports technological advancements and innovations that improve safety. It also directs staff at the City level to engage with the League of California Cities in its collaborative efforts focused on rail safety. Lastly, the resolution encourages the State and Federal governments to enact legislation that mandates enhanced safety measures and provides the appropriate funding for the efforts.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no direct fiscal impact upon the City if the resolution on rail safety is approved.

ACTION:

- A) Motion to adopt a Resolution related to the safety of rail transportation through the City of Martinez ; or
- B) Motion to provide alternate direction to staff related to rail transportation safety.

Attachment:
Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. -14

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF MARTINEZ RELATED
TO THE SAFETY OF RAIL TRANSPORTATION THROUGH THE CITY OF
MARTINEZ**

WHEREAS, the City of Martinez has two major rail lines, the Union Pacific and the BNSF, that traverse the City; and

WHEREAS, the Martinez area is the location of multiple industrial facilities including oil refineries; and

WHEREAS, the League of California Cities is providing multijurisdictional leadership in the development of background information and legislation on the topic of the rail shipment of crude oil; and

WHEREAS, the volume of freight by rail, including crude oil, has increased substantially, a trend expected to continue; and

WHEREAS, rail safety, including track and bridge condition, frequency, speed, staffing and rail car adequacy are of the utmost importance; and

WHEREAS, public safety is the highest priority of the Martinez City Council; and

WHEREAS, State and Federal elected officials are drafting bills that will address rail safety shortcomings and provide potential funding for improvements; and

WHEREAS, new tank car design and standards for crude oil transport being implemented are proven methods to enhance community safety.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Martinez urges the State and Federal agencies charged with rail safety regulation be vigilant in enforcement and process.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that these agencies prioritize safety over cost-effectiveness, and that the phase-out of older tank cars be expedited; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that State and Federal elected officials enact legislation that mandates enhanced safety measures and funds these efforts where appropriate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council also commits to cooperate with efforts of the League of California Cities as it relates to initiatives and programs impacting rail safety.

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I HEREBY CERTIFY that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted by the City Council of the City of Martinez at a Regular Meeting of said Council held on the 15th day of October, 2014, by the following vote:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

RICHARD G. HERNANDEZ, CITY CLERK
CITY OF MARTINEZ

