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Today is Tuesday, July 17, 2007  
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Inland `port' could stem L.A. traffic and pollution  
From news services

A "port" in the Antelope Valley could reduce traffic congestion and air pollution by connecting Palmdale Airport and the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach by rail, said county and transit officials Wednesday.

The Antelope Valley Inland Port Task Force met for the first time to discuss how to build support for an inland hub. Under the proposal, trucks could pick up goods moved by rail instead of driving to the Los Angeles or Long Beach ports. The hub would be near Palmdale Airport, where cargo could be shipped by planes.

The task force includes county Supervisor Mike Antonovich, Palmdale Mayor Jim Ledford, Lancaster Mayor Henry Hearn, Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chief Executive Officer Roger Snoble and representatives from the region's ports, airports and rail lines.

"This is an opportunity for the county to take the lead in addressing the serious need that we have today to alleviate the traffic congestion in the basin that we face every day," Antonovich said.

The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are expected to handle 17.2 million containers by the end of this year, according to the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp. Sixty percent of that cargo is shipped to areas outside the Los Angeles basin.

"This is a crisis - the cargo is going to triple," Antonovich said.

Ledford expressed some concern that the Antelope Valley (14) Freeway and Lancaster (138) Road are not equipped to handle the truck traffic that a "port" could attract and urged his colleagues to pursue rail options.

"We need to be thinking bold, and I think we need to be looking at an additional corridor connecting to the L.A. basin," Ledford said. "And if you could do it all by rail, that would improve our air quality, reduce congestion on our roads."

Earlier this year, the High Desert Corridor Joint Powers Authority met to discuss an expressway proposal that would allow trucks to move goods through San Bernardino without traveling through the San Gabriel Valley.

The Antelope Valley Inland Port Task Force is set to meet again in October.

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**USER COMMENTS** ( 2 of 2 total )

*"Smartest idea in a long time"*

*Let's go for it!*

*posted: Thursday, July 12nd at 17:30 PM*

*"Inland Port can stem LA traffic and pollution"*

*This is a no brainer. There is sure no need to move containers by truck within LA to another terminal to be reloaded on a train to go east. Every single container that is distend for anyplace outside the LA area needs to go BY RAIL to the "inland port" for redistribution. Weather the inland port is in Palmdale or Victorville containers can go by rail freeing up our highways and freeways of all the container truck traffic that is just going to another terminal to be reloaded and moved east by rail. The rail link between the port and the inland port can also be electrified to save on oil use save on energy and save on pollution. Alan Fishel*

*- Alan Fishel*

*posted: Thursday, July 12nd at 17:09 PM*

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