



# Port of Los Angeles Southern California International Gateway

## Agency:

*Port of Los Angeles*

## Role:

*Community Outreach*

## Situation:

- Increasing trade with Pacific Rim countries prompted Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to adopt new rail policy encouraging increased use of rail
- The Ports selected BNSF Railway for the development and operation of the Southern California International Gateway (SCIG) project
- The project provided for the planning, design, construction and operation of near-dock facility to help increase necessary intermodal capacity for movement of cargo between truck and rail

## Challenge:

- Due to right-of-way takes, the California Carthage Company saw the SCIG project as an encroachment by BNSF Railway on its business
- To support its position, BNSF Railway utilized its very vocal union members (who felt the project created more jobs for BNSF) during the outreach meetings
- The local community was concerned about the possible health and environmental risks of increased rail traffic that would take place



## Approach:

- Strategically facilitated two public hearings with more than 600 participants
- Provided a safe environment for those who did not wish to publicly speak could submit their comments in written and electronic form
- Offered multiple solutions for the community to submit comments: verbal, written, and typed, with availability of translator/interpreter
- Created a PowerPoint presenting how the proposed SCIG facility would improve efficiency of cargo transfer from ports to customers and allow shippers to take advantage of more efficient truck-rail transportation
- Printed and distributed Draft Environmental Impact Report, including 1,100 bilingual notices of availability, in under three days
- Maintained control of meeting when protestors arrived

