



Environmental Justice and Regional Organizing

New Partners for Smart Growth
Seattle, Washington
February 5, 2010
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Principles of the EJ Movement

- Environmental issues linked to institutionalized racism and inequity
- Redefines environmental issues in a social justice framework.
- Links race, class and income: environmental + economic justice
- Place based:
Where we live, work, play, pray, and go to school,



Principles cont.

■ Not in Anyone's Backyard

- Links place with community in a health frame

■ Local to Global

- Links struggles in US with struggles in the south/third world communities.

■ We Speak for Ourselves

- Self-determination and empowerment for low-income communities of color, native peoples.





Why Regions?

- Analytic scale to understand conditions
- Regions as scale for action
 - *Economic Forces* — Regions important for economic success
 - *Environmental Concerns* — “Smart Growth” requires confronting fragmentation and promoting regional cooperation
 - *Equity Strategies* — Improved opportunities within regional context

Approaches to Regional Equity

- Community development regionalism
 - Projects
- Policy entrepreneur regionalism
 - Policy
- Social movement regionalism
 - Politics and power

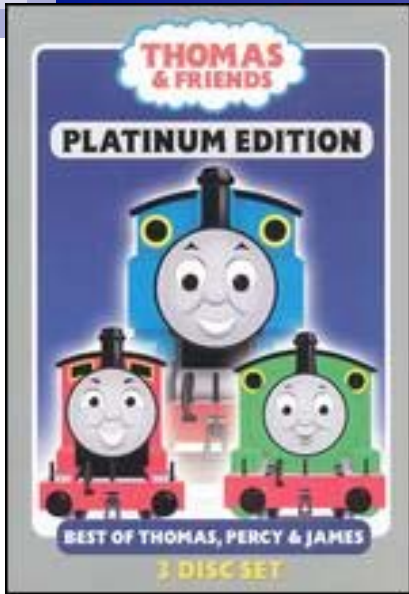


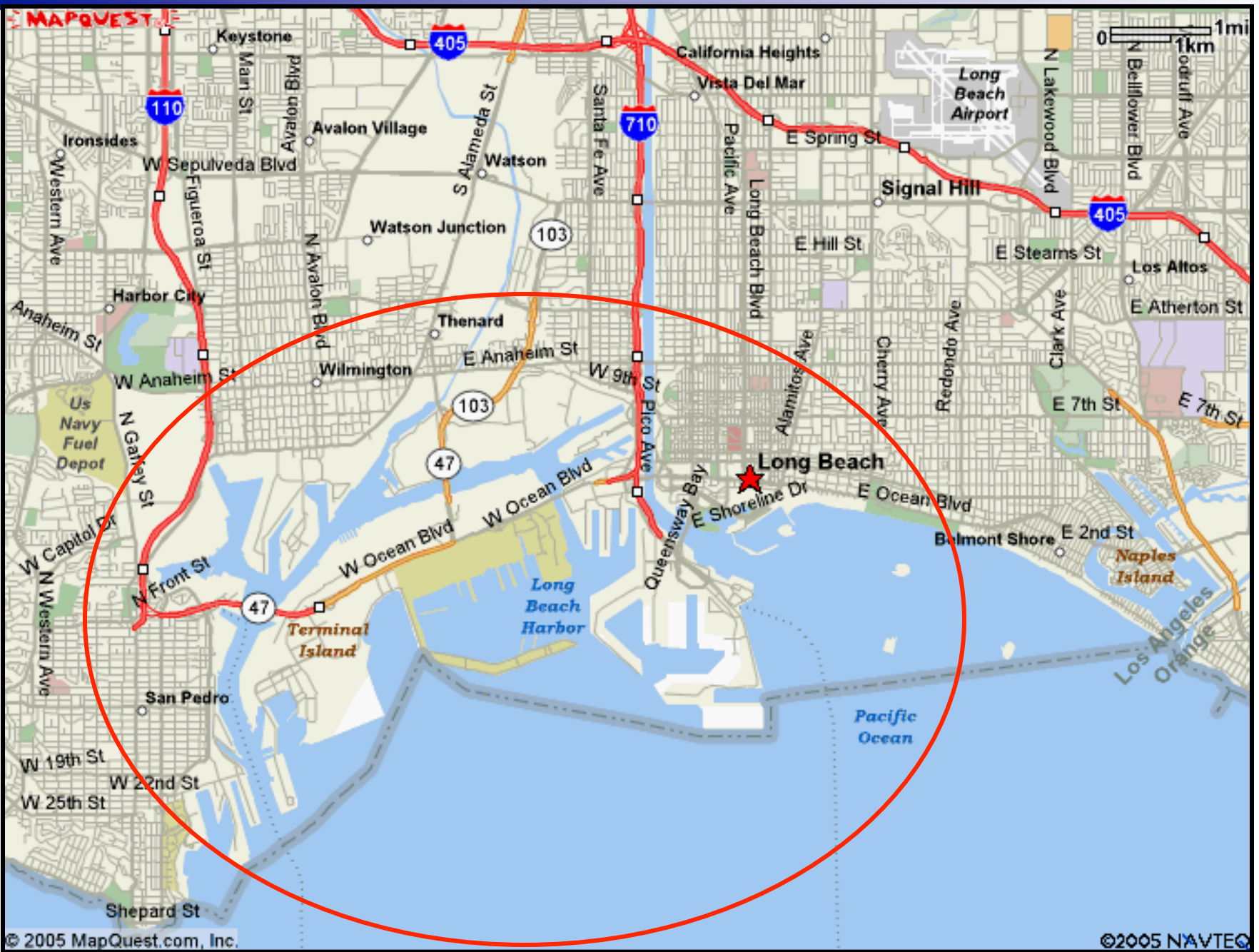
BAY AREA SOCIAL EQUITY CAUCUS
STATE OF THE REGION

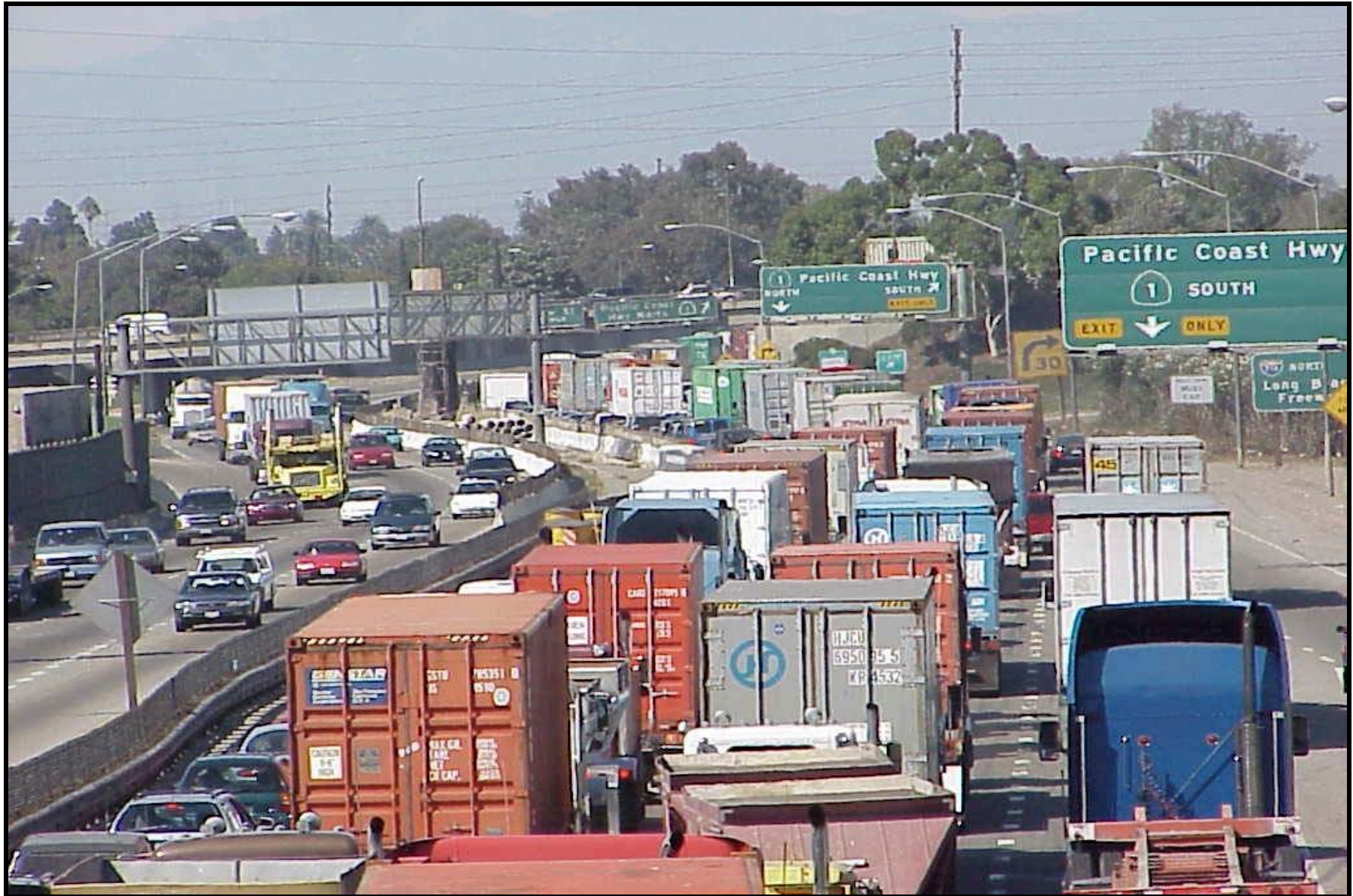
EJ and Regional Organizing: Global Trade, Ports and Goods Movement











Truck on 710 Freeway









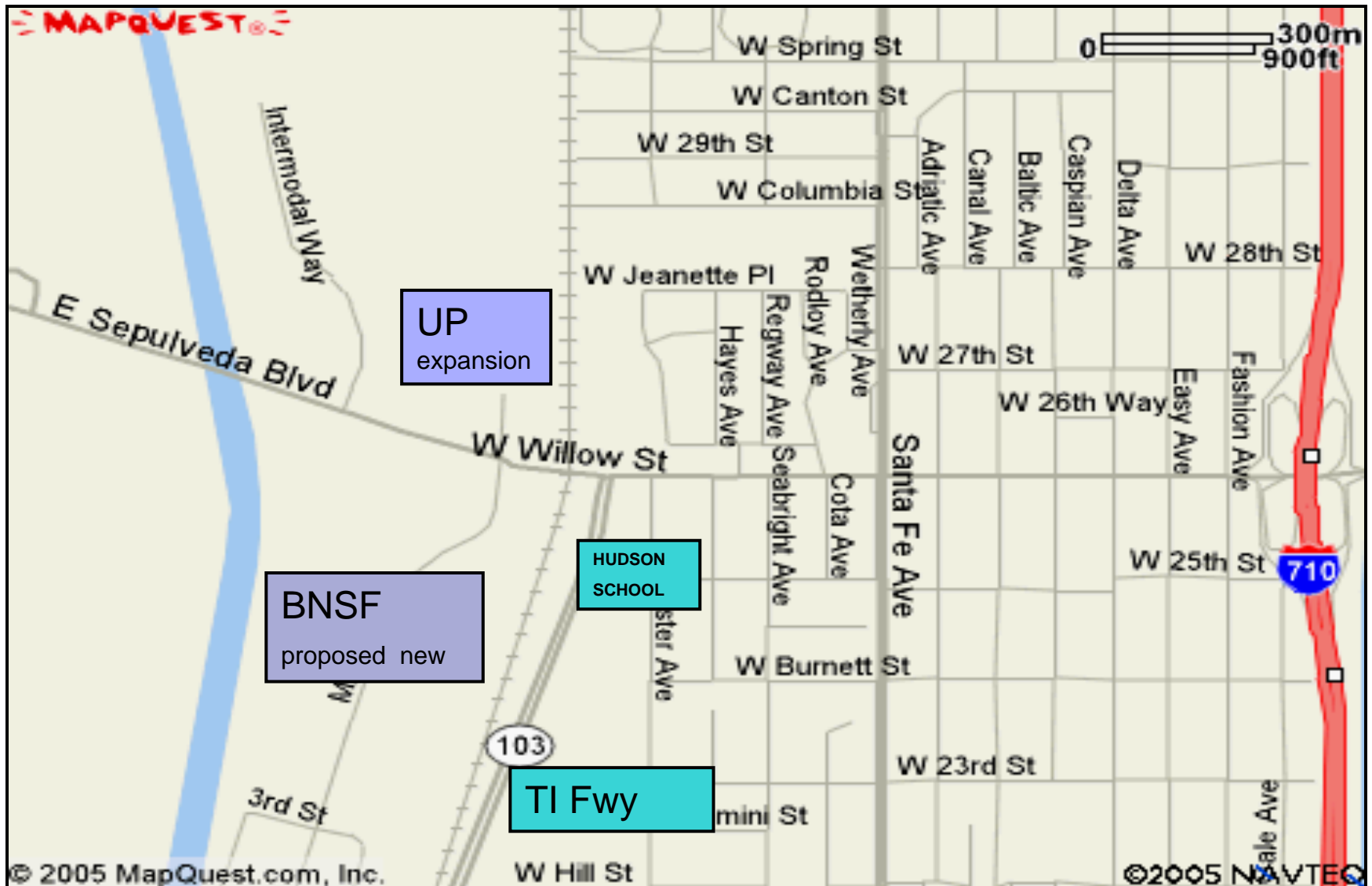
Toxic Emissions

■ Diesel exhaust:

- Contains carbon particles or “soot”
- Known to cause cancer
- Linked to asthma
- Includes fine and ultrafine particles too small to see

■ Diesel PM from the Ports contributes >20 % of the South Coast Basin PM emissions

Proposed Rail Projects





Cabrillo High School teen playing ball, with locomotive in background

Proposed BNSF ICTF

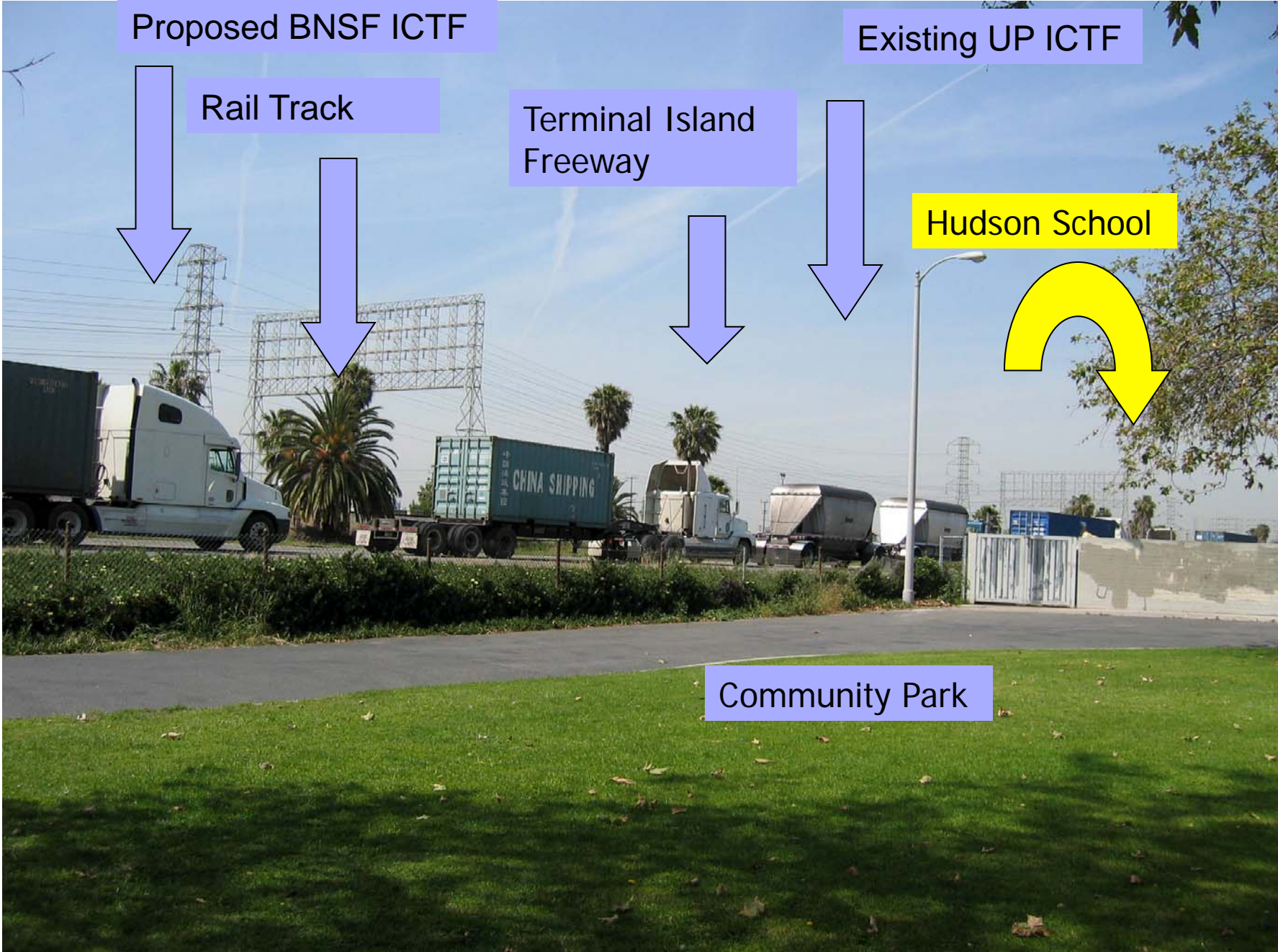
Existing UP ICTF

Rail Track

Terminal Island Freeway

Hudson School

Community Park



Coalition for Clean and Safe Ports

- East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice
- Communities for a Safe Environment, Wilmington
- Teamsters/Change to Win
- LA Alliance for a New Economy
- Natural Resources Defense Council
- American Lung Association
- San Pedro Democratic Club

COALITION FOR
& CLEAN
SAFE
PORTS



The Campaign for Clean Trucks

- Replace and retrofit 16,000 trucks to meet the 2007 Federal EPA emission standards by 2012.
- Require port truck drivers to be employees of licensed motor carrier firms
- First in country to meet comprehensive goals of jobs and clean air.





EJ Frames for Regional Organizing

- Place-based strategies link workers and residents; health and built environment
- In a global economy, regions matter
 - Neighborhood conditions
 - Regional economies
 - Need for regional scale organizing, coalitions and alliances.

EJ Directions for Smart Growth

- Place matters; so do people
- Simple but not easy
 - Issues of race and class
 - Trust and finding common interest
 - Unequal power within and across regions
 - Unlikely allies
 - Labor-community alliances
 - Linking cities and suburbs
 - Rural-urban opportunities



Directions

■ 5 “P’s”:

- People
- Place
- Planning
- Policy - Politics
- Power

■ Openings for change

■ A necessary imperative





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