



Last month, many of you may have read a blog from the Board called “A project we all need to support” regarding the Southern California International Gateway (SCIG), BNSF Railway’s proposed near-dock rail facility.

With unemployment at 12 percent in Los Angeles County, creating well-paying local jobs is a high priority if we are going to grow the tax base to help pay for public safety in Los Angeles. During the three-year construction phase alone, approximately 1,500 jobs would be created annually, contributing more than \$85 million in federal, state and local taxes. Upon completion, SCIG will create up to 14,000 new direct and indirect jobs in Los Angeles and 22,000 new direct and indirect jobs in Southern California by 2036, according to a study by IHS Global Insight.

The League and other labor groups are supporting SCIG for a number of reasons, including the fact that it shows other industries how “green” and growth can go together. SCIG will be the most environmentally friendly railyard in North America and will set a high standard for future intermodal projects.

In building SCIG, BNSF will improve an existing industrial site and replace it with a state-of-the-art facility featuring wide-span all-electric cranes, ultralow-emission switching locomotives and low-emission railyard equipment.

SCIG will help keep the Southern California ports competitive through improved operational efficiency, and with the expanded Panama Canal opening soon, the Gulf and East Coast ports are aggressively pursuing opportunities to attract cargo away from the San Pedro Bay ports. Completing SCIG signals that the ports and industry can work together for the benefit of our region’s economy. Moreover, adding near-dock intermodal capacity increases efficiency and competitiveness for shippers and the ports consistent with the port’s rail policy.

BNSF has gone well beyond what is required to invest \$500 million in our regional economy at a time when it is urgently needed. More importantly, BNSF has shown that green growth is possible by meeting (and exceeding) the port’s standards for new projects.

The League supports green growth. SCIG is an ideal example of green growth and will be an important economic asset for the Southern California region, supporting thousands of good-paying jobs in the Greater Los Angeles area.

The Board is committed to encouraging elected officials to support initiatives that promote public safety and business growth in order to ensure economic prosperity and improve quality of life for everyone who lives and works in the Greater Los Angeles area.

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