



COAST LONGSHORE DIVISION

INTERNATIONAL LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE UNION

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MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 21, 2011

TO: All Longshore Division Locals

FROM: Coast Committee

SUBJECT: “Occupy” Movement’s Proposed Actions on December 12, 2011

It has come to our attention that different groups within the “Occupy” movement are calling for various levels of port or terminal shutdowns on December 12, 2011. “Occupy LA” is calling for the shutdown of SSA Terminals on December 12, 2011. “Occupy Oakland” is calling for the shutdown of all West Coast ports on December 12, 2011. Other social media groups that pretend to be ILWU-related but are in no way sanctioned or informed by the elected leadership are publicly trying to link the Coast Longshore Division’s primary labor dispute with EGT in Longview to the call for a “shut down” of the West Coast ports.

To be clear, the ILWU, the Coast Longshore Division, and Local 21 are not coordinating independently or in conjunction with any self-proclaimed organization or group to shut down any port or terminal, particularly as it relates to our dispute with EGT in Longview. The ILWU is a democratic organization that makes policy through its elected officers or membership at constitutionally formulated meetings. It appears here that outside groups intent on driving their own agendas outside of the ILWU and the Coast Longshore Division are attempting to co-opt the Union.

Regardless of the fact that these efforts are not connected with the Union, ILWU Locals should be prepared for some form of demonstration on December 12, 2011. Also, as a starting point, it is critical to keep in mind that any public demonstration is not a picket line under the PCL&CA.

The Employers have an obligation to ensure a safe ingress and egress to all terminals and to ensure that such ingress and egress allows for the passage of emergency equipment such as fire and ambulance. Accordingly, in the event that a demonstration develops at the point of ingress to a terminal prior to members reporting to work, local officers and reporting workers will have to determine whether or not attempting to pass through the demonstration is unsafe. Such determination should be based on the size of the demonstration, the relative hostility of the demonstrators, and the level of police presence, including police interaction with the demonstrators.



If entering the terminal is deemed unsafe, all workers should standby under Section 11.41, PCL&CA, in a safe area or site removed from the demonstration. It is important that workers not disperse, but standby. At the point of standby, the Employers control whether or not to move the issue of safety to an area arbitrator – not the Union.

In the event that a demonstration evolves after members are inside the terminal working, local officers and workers must determine whether or not the ingress and egress continues to allow for the unhindered access of emergency vehicles. If it does not, all workers should cease work and standby under Section 11.41, PCL&CA.

No effort should be made to leave the safety of the terminal. Again, once longshoremen and clerks standby, the moving party is the Employer.

Remember, public demonstrations are public demonstrations, not picket lines. Only labor union's picket as referenced in our contract.

If you have any questions, please call the Coast Committee.

cc: ILWU Local 6
ILWU Local 75
ILWU Local 63 OCU
ILWU Local 26
ILWU Local 22
ILWU Local 28
ILWU Local 9
ILWU Local 20