

97% of us voted “YES” !

Our Negotiating Committee now has more power to negotiate a better contract



Big turnout, good discussion, and a nearly unanimous vote, prove our strength & unity

The vote to empower our elected Negotiating Committee with authority to call a strike was powerful, but the way it happened was also important.

Turnout was huge – the biggest in recent history. Almost everyone who wasn't working or out sick came to our union hall on Tuesday evening to make history.

Everyone had a chance to speak, ask questions, express different points of view, and vote by secret ballot. Our democratic process gives everyone a voice - totally different than the way Rio Tinto is treating us by trying to take away our democratic rights for due process and fairness when it comes to solving problems at Borax. These democratic rights are important and worth fighting for.

Our Elected Negotiating Committee has pledged to use their new power responsibly. They'll continue involving us in key decisions, letting us know what's happening, and listening to our concerns. This could be a long fight that goes beyond November 4th when the contract expires. But whatever happens, if we all pull together, we'll be able to get a better contract and hold our heads up high.

Support from other unions also sends an important message to the company

Before our meeting and vote, there was a big rally with some important guests.

“You're not alone in this fight!” said Willie Adams, International Secretary-Treasurer of the ILWU who flew down from union headquarters to attend the rally. Adams listed some of the many unions around the world who have pledged to support our fight for a better contract.

Supporters from Local 13 drove 100 miles to attend our rally on behalf of 10,000 dockworkers at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Local 13 President George Lujan said, “You've got support from the brothers and sisters at Local 13.” Lujan was accompanied by Local 13 Relief Business Agents Bob Olvera and Lonnie Brooks.

Workers from U.S. Borax near the docks in Wilmington also made the long trip. “We're here because we have to stick together,” said Local 20 President Gary Harvey. “We work for the same employer and need to be coordinated.”

We're staying strong and united to win a good contract at Borax

