



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

May 12, 2009

Long Beach City Council
City of Long Beach
333 W Ocean Blvd
Long Beach, CA 90802

Support: Middle Harbor Redevelopment Project Final EIR

Dear Long Beach City Councilmembers:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, I write to urge you to deny the appeal against the certification of the Middle Harbor Redevelopment Project Final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR). This project is a major step towards achieving "green growth" goals at the port and strengthening our overall economy.

The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are major economic drivers, providing approximately 500,000 jobs throughout Southern California. With container traffic decreases of more than 20 percent compared to 2008, the Port of Long Beach needs to do all it can to remain competitive.

The Middle Harbor Redevelopment Project will increase the terminal's capacity by merging three existing berths and expanding the foot print by more than 50 acres. The new facility will dramatically increase terminal efficiency with improvements such as expansion of on dock rail capacity. The local positive impact is important as well. The direct and indirect jobs gain will be more than 14,000 over 10 years and the project will reduce the facility's air emissions by 50 percent.

This project shows that "green growth" is more than just an ideal; it is a sustainable way of doing business. I therefore urge the City Council to deny the Middle Harbor appeal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gary Toebben".

Gary Toebben
President & CEO

CC: Mayor Bob Foster
Richard Steinke, Executive Director, Port of Los Angeles