

***Appendix J***  
***Draft EIR/EA***  
***Public Notice/Public Outreach***





The Port of  
**LONG BEACH**  
The Green Port

**DATE:** February 4, 2010

**TO:** Agencies, Organizations, and Interested Parties

**FROM:** Richard Cameron, Director of Environmental Planning

**SUBJECT:** Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment and Application Summary Report (EIR/EA) for the Port of Long Beach Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement Project

The Port of Long Beach (Port) and California Department of Transportation, District 7 (Caltrans) are the Lead Agencies under the California Environmental Quality Act and the National Environmental Policy Act, respectively, in the preparation of a joint EIR/EA for the Port of Long Beach Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement Project. The Port and Caltrans are soliciting input from members of the public, organizations, and government agencies on the proposed project.

**Document Availability:** The revised draft EIR/EA is available for public review at the locations listed below:

- [http://www.polb.com/environment/environmental\\_documents.asp](http://www.polb.com/environment/environmental_documents.asp)
- <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist07/resources/envdocs/>
- Port of Long Beach Administration Building, 925 Harbor Plaza, Long Beach
- Caltrans District 7 Office, 100 S. Main Street, Los Angeles
- The City of Long Beach, City Hall, 333 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach
- Long Beach Main Library, 101 Pacific Avenue, Long Beach
- San Pedro Regional Branch Library, 931 Gaffey Street, San Pedro
- Wilmington Branch Library, 1300 N. Avalon Boulevard, Wilmington

If you would like to request a hard copy of the document or if you need additional information, please contact Stacey Crouch at (562) 590-4160.

**Public Comment Period:** The 45-day public review period for this project begins on February 4, 2010, and ends on March 18, 2010. Please send your comments at the earliest possible date, but no later than March 18, 2010. Please address your comments to:

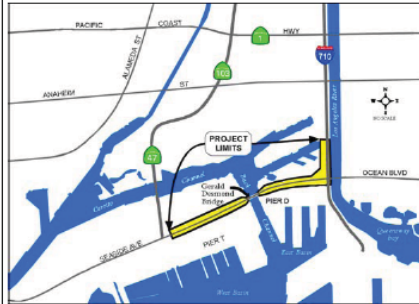
Richard D. Cameron  
Port of Long Beach  
925 Harbor Plaza  
Long Beach, CA 90802

**Public Hearings:** Two public hearings will be held for the revised draft EIR/EA (Spanish and sign language translation services provided). The first meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber, Long Beach City Hall, 333 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, California on February 17, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. A second meeting will be held at Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31 Street, Long Beach, California on February 24, 2010, at 6:00 p.m.

Richard D. Cameron  
Director of Environmental Planning



**Notice of Availability/ Announcement of a Public Hearing  
Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement Project**



**WHAT IS BEING PLANNED?**

The Port of Long Beach (Port) in cooperation with the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), proposes the replacement of the existing Gerald Desmond Bridge, connecting Route 710 to Terminal Island, in order to: 1) provide a structurally sound seismically resistant bridge; 2) reduce approach grades; 3) provide sufficient roadway capacity to handle current and forecasted car and truck volumes; and 4) increase the vertical clearance to afford safe passage for current and new generation container ships. A bridge rehabilitation alternative and two alternative alignments are being considered, which also include integrating the new bridge with the Terminal Island East interchange and the Route 710 interchange.

**WHY THIS AD?**

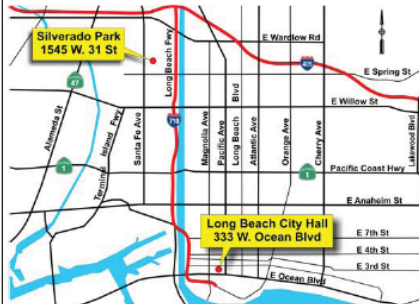
The Port and Caltrans have studied the effects this project may have on the environment. The studies show that significant impacts pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act could occur as a result of the proposed project. A Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) has been prepared to describe these and all other potential impacts of the project. This notice is to inform you of the preparation of the Revised Draft EIR/EA, and of its availability for you to read and comment on. A hearing will be held to give you an opportunity to learn about and comment on the project with Port and Caltrans staff.

**WHAT IS AVAILABLE?**

The Revised Draft EIR/EA and other project information are available at the Port of Long Beach located at 925 Harbor Plaza, Long Beach, CA 90802 or online at <http://www.polb.com/environment/docs.asp>; call or e-mail Stacey Crouch at (562) 590-4160/[crouch@polb.com](mailto:crouch@polb.com). The document is also available for review at the Caltrans District 7 office located at 100 S. Main Street, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or online at <http://www.dot.ca.gov/district7/resources/envdocs/>; call or e-mail Karl Price at (213) 897-1839/[Karl.Price@dot.ca.gov](mailto:Karl.Price@dot.ca.gov). The document is also available at the City of Long Beach at 333 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, CA 90802; the City of Long Beach Main Library located at 101 Pacific Ave, Long Beach, CA 90802; San Pedro Regional Branch Library, 931 S. Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA 90731 and Wilmington Branch Library, 1300 N. Avalon Boulevard, Wilmington, CA 90744.

**WHEN AND WHERE?**

Two public hearings will be held for the revised draft EIR/EA (Spanish and sign language translation services will be provided.) The first meeting will be held in the City Council Chamber, Long Beach City hall, 333 W. Ocean Blvd., Long Beach, California on February 17, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. A second meeting will be held at Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31 Street, Long Beach, California on February 24, 2010, at 6:00 p.m. Individuals who require special accommodation (accessible seating, documentation in alternate formats, etc.) are requested to contact the Port of Long Beach at (562) 590-4160 at least 7 days prior to the scheduled meeting date.



**CONTACT**

Please send your comments in writing no later than March 18, 2010 to:  
Richard D. Cameron  
Director of Environmental Planning  
Port of Long Beach  
925 Harbor Plaza  
Long Beach, CA 90802

## Crouch, Stacey

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**From:** Port of Long Beach [reply-50228@up0.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 04, 2010 9:06 AM  
**To:** Crouch, Stacey  
**Subject:** Hearings Set for Gerald Desmond Bridge Environmental Report



## News Release

### **Hearings Set for Bridge Environmental Report Public invited to comment on plan to replace aging Gerald Desmond**

February 4, 2010

The Port of Long Beach today released the revised draft environmental impact report for public comment on its next major improvement proposal -- replacing the aging Gerald Desmond Bridge.



The Gerald Desmond Bridge is an important transportation link both for the local seaports and for the commuters of Southern California. However, the 40-year-old bridge is obsolete and deteriorating. The revised draft environmental impact report, or EIR, outlines the Port's plans to increase safety and improve navigation with a replacement bridge.

With three traffic lanes plus emergency lanes in both directions, the new bridge would be safer and better able to accommodate cars and trucks on a major Southern California commuting route. The new bridge would be higher to allow for the newest generation of green cargo ships to pass underneath.

Replacement of the Gerald Desmond Bridge is an important part of the ongoing modernization of the Port of Long Beach. In addition, the \$1.1 billion project would generate about \$2.8 billion in economic activity and support, on average, 4,000 jobs a year during five years of construction.

The revised draft environmental impact report will be available for public review and comment for 45 days. The Port will host two public hearings to allow for comment on the proposal:

- Wednesday, Feb. 17, 6 p.m. (presentations begin at 6:30 p.m.) at Long Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 333 W. Ocean Blvd.
- Wednesday, Feb. 24, 6 p.m. (presentations begin at 6:30 p.m.) at Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31st St.

At each hearing, Port staff will make a presentation explaining the project and draft

EIR, and then invite members of the public to comment. The Port is also accepting written comments on the EIR, sent to Richard Cameron, Director of Environmental Planning, Port of Long Beach, 925 Harbor Plaza, Long Beach, CA 90802, or by e-mail to [Cameron@polb.com](mailto:Cameron@polb.com). Comments are due by 4:30 p.m., March 18, 2010.

For a project overview and links to the fact sheet, Q&A and the complete draft EIR, please visit [www.polb.com/bridge](http://www.polb.com/bridge).

**Contact:** Art Wong, Port of Long Beach Assistant Director of Communications/Public Information Officer, (562) 590-4123, (562) 619-5665 (cell), or [wong@polb.com](mailto:wong@polb.com).

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## Crouch, Stacey

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**From:** Port of Long Beach [reply-50228@up0.net]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 17, 2010 12:28 PM  
**To:** Crouch, Stacey  
**Subject:** Reminder: Hearing Tonight for Gerald Desmond Bridge Environmental Report



## News Release

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### **Reminder: Hearing Tonight on Bridge Report Public invited to comment on plan to replace aging Gerald Desmond**

February 17, 2010

The Port of Long Beach tonight, February 17, will hold the first of two public hearings on the revised draft environmental impact report on a plan to replace the aging Gerald Desmond Bridge. The meeting is at 6 tonight, with presentations to start at 6:30, at Long Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 333 W. Ocean Blvd.



The Gerald Desmond Bridge is an important transportation link both for the local seaports and for the commuters of Southern California. However, the 40-year-old bridge is obsolete and deteriorating. The revised draft environmental impact report, or EIR, outlines the Port's plans to increase safety and improve navigation with a replacement bridge.

With three traffic lanes plus emergency lanes in both directions, the new bridge would be safer and better able to accommodate cars and trucks on a major Southern California commuting route. The new bridge would be higher to allow for the newest generation of green cargo ships to pass underneath.

Replacement of the Gerald Desmond Bridge is an important part of the ongoing modernization of the Port of Long Beach. In addition, the \$1.1 billion project would generate about \$2.8 billion in economic activity and support, on average, 4,000 jobs a year during five years of construction.

The revised draft environmental impact report will be available for public review and comment for 45 days. The Port's second public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, February 24, 6 p.m. (presentations begin at 6:30 p.m.) at Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31st St.

At each hearing, Port staff will make a presentation explaining the project and draft EIR, and then invite members of the public to comment. The Port is also accepting written comments on the EIR, sent to Richard Cameron, Director of Environmental Planning, Port of Long Beach, 925 Harbor Plaza, Long Beach, CA 90802, or by e-mail to



## Crouch, Stacey

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**From:** Port of Long Beach [reply-50228@up0.net]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, February 23, 2010 1:45 PM  
**To:** Crouch, Stacey  
**Subject:** Hearing Wednesday on Bridge Replacement



## News Release

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### **Hearing Wednesday on Bridge Replacement Port hosts Feb. 24 public meeting at Silverado Park**

The Port of Long Beach on Wednesday, February 24, will hold a public hearing on the revised draft environmental impact report on a plan to replace the aging Gerald Desmond Bridge. The meeting is at 6 p.m. with presentations to start at 6:30 p.m., at Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31st St.



The Gerald Desmond Bridge is an important transportation link both for the local seaports and for the commuters of Southern California. However, the 40-year-old bridge is obsolete and deteriorating. The revised draft environmental impact report, or EIR, outlines the Port's plans to increase safety and improve navigation with a replacement bridge.

With three traffic lanes plus emergency lanes in both directions, the new bridge would be safer and better able to accommodate cars and trucks on a major Southern California commuting route. The new bridge would be higher to allow for the newest generation of green cargo ships to pass underneath.

Replacement of the Gerald Desmond Bridge is an important part of the ongoing modernization of the Port of Long Beach. In addition, the \$1.1 billion project would generate about \$2.8 billion in economic activity and support, on average, 4,000 jobs a year during five years of construction.

At the hearing Wednesday, Port staff will make a presentation explaining the project and draft EIR, and then invite members of the public to comment. The Port is also accepting written comments on the EIR, sent to Richard Cameron, Director of Environmental Planning, Port of Long Beach, 925 Harbor Plaza, Long Beach, CA 90802, or by e-mail to [Cameron@polb.com](mailto:Cameron@polb.com). Comments are due by 4:30 p.m., March 22, 2010.

For a project overview and links to the fact sheet, Q&A and the complete draft EIR, please visit [www.polb.com/bridge](http://www.polb.com/bridge).

**Contact:** Art Wong, Port of Long Beach Assistant Director of Communications/Public Information Officer, (562) 590-4121, (562) 619-5665 (cell), or [wong@polb.com](mailto:wong@polb.com).



A Community Newsletter from the Port of Long Beach



Port of  
**LONG BEACH**  
The Green Port

# re:port

Winter 2010



## Future Span

A proposed six-year project to replace the aging Gerald Desmond Bridge would improve traffic flow, increase safety and provide thousands of construction jobs. Find out more, page 4.

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# A Stronger Connection



**F**or more than 40 years the Gerald Desmond Bridge has linked downtown Long Beach with Terminal Island and major port facilities. The bridge serves as a crucial commuter access route for downtown and surrounding communities. It's also a vital part of the national infrastructure, with nearly 15 percent of the nation's waterborne cargo traveling across the bridge.

But the Gerald Desmond is now obsolete and deteriorating. The bridge is near the end of its lifespan and has far exceeded its intended traffic capacity.

And though the bridge is safe for commuters, it faces critical long-term maintenance issues. The Port has had to install netting below the bridge to catch falling pieces of concrete before they hit the ground and waterways below. The California Department of Transportation, which regularly inspects the bridge, has determined that it warrants replacement.

For these reasons and more, the Port of Long Beach is proposing to replace the Gerald Desmond with a new, elegant, cable-stayed bridge that would improve traffic flow and increase safety – for the commuters and cargo

## Find Out More

The Port will host two public hearings to collect comments on the proposed Gerald Desmond Bridge replacement project:

- **Feb. 17, 6 p.m.**, at Long Beach City Hall Council Chambers, 333 W. Ocean Blvd.
- **Feb. 24, 6 p.m.**, at Silverado Park, 1545 W. 31st St.

Visit [www.polb.com/bridge](http://www.polb.com/bridge) for more information.

trucks driving over it and for the ships passing beneath it. Earlier this month the Port released an Environmental Impact Report on the proposed project, and two public hearings are scheduled for February 17 and 24.

As proposed, construction of the new bridge would begin late this year and be completed in 2016. The estimated \$1.1 billion cost would be paid through a combination of Port revenue, state bond funding and federal funds.

“Even though the bridge isn't unsafe for drivers, it's old, deteriorating and needs to be replaced,” said Port Executive Director Richard D. Steinke. “A new bridge would be a major improvement to traffic and safety.”



## Plans are underway to replace the obsolete Gerald Desmond Bridge with a new, modern span



The proposed Gerald Desmond Bridge replacement would have three traffic lanes in each direction, plus dedicated emergency lanes to reduce traffic delays and safety hazards from accidents and truck breakdowns.

The new bridge would add a lane in each direction, for six lanes total. It would add emergency lanes on both sides, as well, to reduce traffic delays and safety hazards from accidents and truck breakdowns. With emergency lanes, accidents would no longer halt traffic for hours and send vehicles into surrounding neighborhoods, causing further traffic jams. The new bridge would also raise the vertical clearance to accommodate newer, “greener” vessels that can plug in to clean, electric shore power.

The \$1.1 billion in construction spending would generate economic activity of \$2.8 billion in Southern California and would support, on average, 4,000 jobs a year for five years. “It would be a huge boost to the local economy at a time when we need it most,” Steinke said.

The project would be constructed in phases to minimize the impact on traffic. The new bridge would be built next to the existing one, and once the new bridge is in use, the old bridge would be demolished.

“Even with costly maintenance, the existing bridge cannot be maintained long-term,” Steinke said. “The time is right to build a new, better and safer bridge.”



A worker repairs netting (known as a “diaper”) below the bridge that stops broken pieces of concrete from falling.

