



**R-7**

**James Johnson**  
**City of Long Beach**  
**Councilmember, Seventh District**

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**Date:** January 24, 2012

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember James Johnson, Seventh District  
Vice-Mayor Suja Lowenthal, Second District  
Councilmember Robert Garcia, First District

**Subject:** Preparation of a Port Impact Zone Mitigation Plan

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**RECOMMENDATION:**

Request the City Manager prepare a "Port Impact Zone" plan to mitigate cumulative port-related impacts in Long Beach neighborhoods.

**DISCUSSION**

In addition to the positive economic benefits brought to the region, activities and supporting industries related to the Port of Long Beach and Port of Los Angeles have created adverse environmental impacts in much of Long Beach. There is a voluminous number of peer-reviewed articles attesting to the health impacts of port-related air pollution. Additionally, noise, light, and aesthetic impacts have also contributed to the cumulative negative impact on Long Beach communities.

To date, the City has dealt with these negative impacts incrementally by evaluating potential mitigations on a case-by-case basis. This approach, while resulting in positive projects for the community, is unlikely to result in a long-term, comprehensive solution to address these cumulative impacts. Therefore, I propose the development of a comprehensive mitigation plan for port-affected neighborhoods. This plan would knit together a cohesive and effective vision for improving the quality of life for residents who have been negatively affected by port growth.

The proposed comprehensive mitigation plan would evaluate all the work done to date through other studies and reports, engage the community and develop a master plan that could be incorporated into key planning documents such as the Land Use and Mobility Elements of the General Plan. Staff has indicated that the initial preparation of this plan can be accomplished through existing staff resources.

The Port of Long Beach, working with other stakeholders, has identified the areas of Long Beach that have been most impacted by the ports. This area, identified as "Zone 1a," includes the neighborhoods of West Long Beach, Los Cerritos, Wrigley, Central Long Beach, and Downtown. (See attached map.) Because these neighborhoods have been most affected by port activities, this would be the "Port Impact Zone" studied in the proposed plan.

### FISCAL IMPACT

City staff will prepare this initial plan with budgeted resources; there is no additional cost for preparation of this plan. The existence of a comprehensive plan to address the cumulative impacts of port activities could help the City obtain grants from local, state, and federal sources. While the amount of such future funding is unknown, such grants could result in millions of dollars in positive fiscal impact to the City.

