

CEQA Appeal Hearing

Deep Draft Navigation Feasibility Study and Channel Deepening Project

Matthew Arms Director of Environmental Planning Harbor Department Long Beach City Council Meeting November 15, 2022

Purpose & Objectives

Purpose

- Increase transportation efficiencies for container and liquid bulk ships at the Port of Long Beach
- Improve conditions for ship operations and safety

Objectives

- Reduce transportation costs, ship congestion, harbor wait times
- Increase channel depth to encourage replacement of small, less efficient ships with large, more efficient ships
- Remove channel restrictions to enable ships at maximum capacity



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Overview

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Environmental Impact Report

Fully Complies with CEQA

- Partnership with United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)
- Joint NEPA/CEQA document; USACE completed NEPA in July 2022
- Scope of Project is Accurate and Adequate
 - Construction activities for vessel navigational efficiencies and safety;
 - No changes to, or expansion of marine terminal operations
- Findings Supported by Substantial Evidence
 - In conjunction with NEPA EIS, the EIR is comprehensive to support findings

Appeal Issues

- Cargo Growth and Capacity
 - No expansion No physical modifications to marine terminals
- Air Quality, Health Risk Assessment, and Greenhouse Gas
 - Regulatory-approved guidance, methodologies, standards, and thresholds
 - No change to or expansion of marine terminal operations
- Endangered Species and Water Quality
 - No impacts to special-status or endangered species
 - Project will allow for fewer ocean-going vessel trips; reduced impacts

Appeal Issues

Environmental Justice

- No significant impacts associated with Toxic Air Contaminants
- Special Condition: \$146,753 to Port Community Grants Program

Cumulative Impacts

- Region of Influence: Inner Harbor Channels of Port of Long Beach and Los Angeles in the north to outer breakwater in the south
- CEQA Guidelines: "...standards of practicality and reasonableness"

Mitigation Measures

- All feasible mitigation measures imposed
- CEQA requires nexus No nexus between Project and marine terminals operations

CEQA Appeal

City Council

 Determine whether the Board of Harbor Commissioners' certification of the Final EIR is in compliance with the requirements of CEQA.

Thank you