



THE PORT
OF LOS ANGELES

Executive Director's
Report to the
Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: OCTOBER 8, 2014

FROM: PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ – ISSUANCE OF A LEVEL I NON-APPEALABLE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT (NO. 14-16) TO THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES TO CREATE 3 ACRES OF EELGRASS BED AT CABRILLO BEACH

SUMMARY:

The City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) is proposing to develop a 3-acre eelgrass mitigation site in the Inner Cabrillo Beach area. The site is being constructed to mitigate impacts to eelgrass from maintenance dredging at the Berth 24 Boat Ramp Basin and to offset outstanding eelgrass mitigation obligations incurred from dredging for Phase II of the Cabrillo Way Marina. The proposed project is the financial responsibility of the Harbor Department because the regulatory and resource agencies have identified the Harbor Department as the responsible party for the mitigation. Staff is recommending that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) approve Coastal Development Permit (CDP) No. 14-16, a Level I non-appealable permit for the proposed project.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners:

1. Find that the proposed project conforms with the certified Port Master Plan and find that this project will have no significant adverse environmental impacts as provided in the California Environmental Quality Act;
2. Resolve to approve the issuance of Coastal Development Permit No. 14-16, consistent with the project description listed on Application for Port Permit No. 140808-098, and direct the Director of Planning & Economic Development to issue said permit; and
3. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

SUBJECT: LEVEL I CDP NO. 14-16 FOR EELGRASS AT CABRILLO BEACH

DISCUSSION:

Background/Context – The Harbor Department is obligated to mitigate for impacts to eelgrass from the maintenance dredging at the Berth 24 Boat Ramp Basin and to offset outstanding eelgrass mitigation obligations incurred from dredging for Phase II of the Cabrillo Way Marina. Since the proposed project includes surplus eelgrass mitigation, the Harbor Department is coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to establish the appropriate mechanism to make use of surplus mitigation existing beyond the identified needs of these two projects.

Scope of Work – The proposed eelgrass mitigation site is located adjacent to existing eelgrass beds at Inner Cabrillo Beach, and would be constructed by excavating 11,150 cubic yards of sand from the shoal and placing it within adjacent waters to raise the elevation of the bottom up to elevations suitable to support eelgrass (Transmittal 1). The shoal would be cut back toward the shoreline to match the adjacent beach at the top elevations. The slope of the beach would be laid back to 12:1 to create a gentle beach gradient down to an elevation of -4 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) where a flat bench would be developed. By flattening the slope on the beach and removing the shoal, the functional intertidal beach face would be expanded in area.

The sand removed from the shoal would be placed in the deeper waters adjacent to the site. Within the fill areas, the bottom would be raised to a plateau at an elevation of -5 feet MLLW. This plateau would be a balanced fill with the 11,150 cubic yards of cut. The maximum depth of cut from the site is 8 feet while the maximum fill depth is 6 feet. The proposed new grade would provide more stable beach slopes and stepped plateaus at -4 and -5 feet MLLW.

The transplant site to be used for mitigation purposes is 3 acres. Donor eelgrass for the transplants of eelgrass is to be derived from the eelgrass beds along the beach in front of the youth camp facility to the north, as well as beds along the northwestern edge of Inner Cabrillo Beach. Monitoring of the site would be conducted annually for five years post-transplant.

Should the Board approve the issuance of CDP No. 14-16, project construction would begin in the Fall of 2014 with annual monitoring until 2019. The Harbor Department is responsible for the estimated \$710,000 cost, which includes the monitoring.

Coastal Permit Requirements – The proposed project is a Level I non-appealable project in accordance with Section 6.4 of the Port of Los Angeles's certified Port Master Plan (PMP). A Level I permit is required for projects that involve minimal resources; cause no or minimal changes in land and/or water use and in the density or intensity of the use; have no significant environmental impacts that can or cannot be mitigated; and is non-appealable. The proposed project is a Level I CDP because it conforms to all four requirements (Transmittal 2).

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The proposed project has been found to be consistent with the PMP and the Chapter 8 policies of the Coastal Act of 1976, as amended. Located in Planning Areas 1 and 5 of the PMP, the proposed project is consistent with the designated uses of Open Space and Shallow Water Habitat.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is issuance of a Level I non-appealable CDP for construction of a 3-acre eelgrass mitigation site at Inner Cabrillo Beach. As an activity involving a small habitat restoration project not exceeding 5 acres to assure the maintenance, restoration, enhancement, or protection of habitat for fish, plants and wildlife, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Section 15333 (Class 33) of the State CEQA Guidelines.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

The proposed project associated with the proposed CDP will have six (6) direct and five (5) secondary one-year equivalent jobs for the five-county region.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

The proposed project is the financial responsibility of the Harbor Department because the regulatory and resource agencies have identified the Harbor Department as the responsible party for the mitigation. This Board item approves the issuance of a Level I CDP which is required before initiating construction services for the project. Funding for this project was approved by the Port Development Committee and budgeted in the Capital Improvement Program Budget for Fiscal Year 2014/2015 in the amount of \$650,000 under work order number 25272, center number 1005, program no. 000, accounts 54260 and 54510. The total cost for the project is estimated at \$710,000 (\$674,000 for capital development of the site and \$36,000 for operational monitoring). Funding for future fiscal years will be requested during the regular budget process.

FY 2013/2014 - \$	950
FY 2014/2015 - \$	650,000
FY 2015/2016 - \$	23,050
FY 2016/2017 - \$	9,000
FY 2017/2018 - \$	9,000
FY 2018/2019 - \$	7,431
FY 2019/2020 - \$	10,569

Total \$710,000

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CITY ATTORNEY:

The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed this Board Report and determined that it raises no legal issues at this time.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Site Location Map
2. CDP No. 14-08

FIS Approval: esj (initials)

CA Approval: gpc (initials)



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APPROVED:



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APP No. 140808-098