



**THE PORT  
OF LOS ANGELES**

Executive Director's  
Report to the  
Board of Harbor Commissioners

**DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2021**

**FROM: CARGO MARKETING**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - APPROVE TEMPORARY ORDER TO AMEND PORT OF LOS ANGELES TARIFF NO. 4, INCREASING RATES FOR PETROLEUM PRODUCTS, CHANGING A PROVISION OF THE MERCHANDISE NOS RATE, AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

**SUMMARY:**

Staff requests approval of an amendment to Port of Los Angeles (Port) Tariff No. 4, (Tariff No. 4) approving, effective on January 1, 2022: (i) a rate increase of 9.4 and 11.8 percent applicable to the respective petroleum products; (ii) a note to the Merchandise Not Otherwise Specified (NOS) rate stating that any change in the Merchandise NOS rate shall be offset by any scheduled increase in the compensation section of a container terminal permit; (iii) a definition in Section 1 of Tariff No. 4 defining a "Scheduled Increase in Compensation"; and (iv) the deletion of rated tariff items which are no longer relevant.

Staff estimates that the proposed petroleum products' tariff increases will generate \$326,292 in additional revenues during Fiscal Year (FY) 2022. The financial impact of the note added to the Merchandise NOS rate can be determined when an actual increase in that rate would take place.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners:

1. Find that the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article III Class 1(31) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines;
2. Approve the amendment to Port of Los Angeles Tariff No. 4 adding a definition to Section One "Definitions"; increasing rates to Section Five "Wharfage", Items 550-600 through 550-625; and deleting Item 550-650, Items 550-902 through 550-975, Items 560-001 through 560-975, and Item 1220 subject to the California Association of Port Authorities' review and approval, and authorize the Executive Director to work with the California Association of Port Authorities to secure this approval or proceed to take independent action in accordance with the California Association of Port Authorities' procedure;

**SUBJECT: TEMPORARY ORDER TO AMEND TARIFF NO. 4, INCREASING PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

3. Adopt Temporary Order No. \_\_\_\_\_ to amend Port of Los Angeles Tariff No. 4 adding a definition to Section One "Definitions"; increasing rates to Section Five "Wharfage", Items 550-600 through 550-625; and deleting Item 550-650, Items 550-902 through 550-975, Items 560-001 through 560-975, and Item 1220;
4. Authorize the Board Secretary to certify the adoption of Temporary Order by the Board of Harbor Commissioners and cause the same to be published once in a newspaper printed and published in the City of Los Angeles, to take effect prior to adoption by Ordinance for a period not-to-exceed 90 days pursuant to City Charter Section 653(b); and
5. Adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_.

**DISCUSSION:**

Background and Context – On August 12, 2012, the Board approved a 12.9 and 18.1 percent increase to Item Nos. 550-600 through 550-650, Petroleum and Petroleum Products Other Than Petrochemicals and Aqua-Ammonia, effective January 1, 2013.

Petroleum and Petroleum Products, other than Petrochemicals and Aqua-Ammonia, have not kept pace with market rates when comparing Port Tariff No. 4 rates with those of the Port of Long Beach (POLB).

Effective January 1, 2022 staff recommends the following rate increases for petroleum products:

Tariff Item No.	Tariff Description	Current Rate	Proposed Rate	POLB Rate
550-600	Oil, Crude, in bulk, in cents per barrel of 159 Liters	8.5	9.5	9.5
550-605	Bunkers, loaded to vessel, in cents per barrel of 159 Liters	8.5	9.5	9.5
550-610	Refined petroleum products, including non- petroleum based motorgrade fuel additives, in bulk, in cents per barrel of 159 Liters	9.6	10.5	10.5
550-615	Fuel oils, NOS, in cents per barrel of 159 Liters	9.6	10.5	10.5
550-620	Gasoline, in cents per barrel of 159 Liters	9.6	10.5	10.5
550-625	Jet Fuel, in cents per barrel of 159 Liters	9.6	10.5	10.5

\*Rates shown are in cents per barrel

**SUBJECT: TEMPORARY ORDER TO AMEND TARIFF NO. 4, INCREASING PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

These changes represent an increase in rates of 9.4 and 11.8 percent depending on the specific commodity within Item Nos. 550-600 through 550-625.

In addition, Tariff No. 4 covers more than 100 items. Item 550-001 covers wharfage on Merchandise NOS. The Merchandise NOS rate is used when a rate for a specific commodity does not exist in Tariff No. 4. In addition, the compensation schedule of certain container terminal permits is tied to the Merchandise NOS rate. Any percent increase in the Merchandise NOS rate would (depending on its effective date) currently apply to rates of five of the Port's container terminals. The actual effective rate increase to each of the Port's container terminals varies and depends on the individual permit conditions with the Port.

Staff is recommending the Board approve the addition of a note to Item 550-001 stating that any change in the Merchandise NOS rate shall be offset by any scheduled increase by way of Board Order and/or in the compensation section of a container terminal permit with the Harbor Department. This offset shall only be applicable to the permit holder's compensation year in which the Merchandise NOS rate is changed. As part of this recommended change, a definition would be added in Section One "Definitions" defining "Scheduled Increase in Compensation". A scheduled increase in compensation means an adjustment to a container terminal's monetary compensation to the Harbor Departments defined in each container terminal permit's compensation section readjusting monetary compensation of the minimum annual guarantee, minimum amount of monetary compensation, Twenty-Foot Equivalent Unit (TEU) rate, and/or incremental TEU rate payable to the Harbor Department.

Example:

Compensation Year	1	2	3	4	5
Scheduled container terminal tenant's compensation	9%	2%	2%	2%	4%
Merchandise NOS Percentage Increase	10%	4%	0%	0%	4%
<b>Total Permit Comp. Increase</b>	<b>10%</b>	<b>4%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>2%</b>	<b>4%</b>

Additionally, tariff items listed below are no longer required therefore would be deleted.

- Item No. 550-650 – Liquid petroleum gas, in bulk. **No longer handled.**
- Item Nos. 550-902 through 550-975 – Alternate wharfage rates. **No longer used.**
- Item Nos. 560-001 through 975 – Wharfage section covering the Hawaii trade. **No longer needed.**
- Item No. 1220 – Reefer Rental Charges. **No longer needed.** The Port does not own or maintain Reefers.

**DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2021**

**PAGE 4 OF 5**

**SUBJECT: TEMPORARY ORDER TO AMEND TARIFF NO. 4, INCREASING PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES**

Need for Amendment – The last increase to petroleum products was on January 1, 2013. The proposed rate increases would keep petroleum product rates in line with the Port of Long Beach rates for these commodities. The note added to the Merchandise NOS rate would standardize the application of Merchandise NOS rate increases across various container terminal permits. Furthermore, in the event that compensation rates within a given container terminal permit have not kept pace with the overall market, this note would preserve the Harbor Department's ability to increase compensation rates via future Merchandise NOS rate adjustments.

Need for Approval – Pursuant to the Los Angeles City Charter, the Board has authority to make changes to Tariff No. 4 for a period of 90 days by Temporary Order (Transmittal 1). A companion action to this Resolution recommends a Permanent Order and Ordinance for approval by the Board and City Council, which are required to make changes to Tariff No. 4 (Transmittal 2) beyond the Temporary Order's 90-day effective period.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:**

The proposed action is approval of a Temporary Order to amend Port of Los Angeles Tariff No. 4 to increase rated tariff items (Transmittal 3), which is an activity involving modification of any rate, fee, or charge for the use of existing municipal facilities and services involving negligible or no expansion of use. Therefore, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with Article III Class 1(31) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

The proposed Temporary Order would: (i) increase certain tariff rates on petroleum products by 9.4 and 11.8 percent effective January 1, 2022; (ii) delete certain tariff items that are either no longer used or no longer relevant; and (iii) enable compensation increases negotiated within individual container terminal permits to offset future increases in the Merchandise NOS rate.

Increasing certain tariff rates on petroleum products is expected to generate incremental wharfage revenues of \$326,292 over a six-month period from January 1 – June 30, 2022 and approximately \$650,000 of incremental wharfage over a full year. The deletion of certain tariff items that are no longer used or no longer relevant is not anticipated to have a financial impact on revenues given that these tariff items are rarely, if ever, used to prepare compensation invoices.

DATE: OCTOBER 21, 2021

PAGE 5 OF 5

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY ORDER TO AMEND TARIFF NO. 4, INCREASING PETROLEUM PRODUCTS AND ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Lastly, the action to enable tenant-specific compensation increases to offset future increases in the Merchandise NOS rate will be evaluated once a change in the Merchandise NOS rate is subsequently brought to the Board for consideration.

**CITY ATTORNEY:**

The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed and approved the proposed Order as to form and legality.

**TRANSMITTALS:**

1. Temporary Order
2. Tariff No. 4

FIS Approval: MB  
CA Approval: SD



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APPROVED:



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