



Pile Drivers, Bridge, Dock and Wharf Builders

Local Union 2375

Affiliated with

United Brotherhood of Carpenters & Joiners of America

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July 17, 2008

Dr. Ralph Appy
Director of Environmental Management
Port of Los Angeles
425 S. Palos Verdes St,
San Pedro CA, 90731

USACE, LA District Regulatory Division
c/o Spencer D. MacNeil, D.Env.
ATTN: CESPL-RG-2004-00917-SDM
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, California 90053-2325

RECEIVED
JUL 21 2008
ENVIRONMENTAL
HARBOR DEPARTMENT
CITY OF LOS ANGELES

RE: EIR for the Pacific L.A. Marine Terminal LLC Pier 400, Berth 408 Project

Dear Sirs:

On behalf of Pile Drivers, Bridge, Dock, and Wharf Builders Local 2375 (located in Wilmington, California) and the 60,000 members of the Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters, I am writing to you today in support of the Marine Terminal Project being proposed at Pier 400, Berth 408. We believe this project is a terrific opportunity to address both the environmental concerns of the region and the stagnant local economy at the same time

Several members of our Local, including the entire Executive Board, have closely examined both the viability of its design, including the utilization of the latest "green" technology, and the benefits the project would bring to the community. We have also heard the worries expressed by some regarding the project. After careful consideration, we have determined it would be in our best interest to make a written statement at this time in support of the project in light of the scattered opposition it will undoubtedly face through this process.

This Marine Terminal Project, in our opinion, uses a terrific and unique combination of well-founded engineering principles which will ensure its stability and new technology which will progressively address recognized air quality issues. Many of the designs noted in the EIR are familiar to our membership and recognized as significant in nature. The pilings and pier structures are well designed to address any surges or other docking concerns. The Marine Terminal Project will contain many new environmental mitigation techniques which we look forward to being a part of: the establishment of AMP facilities in the oil industry, the utilization of shore-side pumping facilities, and especially Plains All-American's unique efforts to curb exhaust at dockside.

Indeed this project, if approved, could become the standard for both the shipping and marine construction industries throughout the world where nearly all other port facilities are years behind in addressing their diesel air pollution output. Locally, we very easily could be learning techniques and skills that would make us very marketable in the global market.

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Pile Drivers Local 2375 has worked on the development of the LA/LB Harbor for over one hundred years (from its inception) and is largely responsible for the physical labor expended on projects such as the building of the breakwaters, the development of Terminal Island, the foundation of the spanning bridges, and modern projects such as the recent bypass on Terminal Island and Pier 400 itself. We have worked on Water Treatment Plants, Habitat Restoration Projects, and our currently working on the Wind Turbine Project near Tehachapi. Our members include the Divers, Rock Slingers, Pile Drivers, Bargemen, Rig Builders, Welders, Dock Carpenters, and Bridge Builders that have not only worked near the water but have supplied labor for such Southland projects as the Red Line Subway, Blue Line, Gold Line, and Metrolink.

While our current projects span the entire Southland our base has always been in the Harbors. Over one-third of our members reside within fifteen miles of the LA/LB Harbors. Many of these members in particular would look forward to building the Marine Terminal Project at Pier 400, Berth 408 not only because of the challenge but the difference this project would make in their home life. The opportunity to work so close to home will allow them to play a greater part in their children's lives, attend doctor's appointments without having to take off time from work, or, more immediately, spend less money on gas. Obviously this would also have a residual effect on addressing other air quality raised from congestion on freeways.

This Plains All American Pipeline Project will be built right next to our homes, including mine. As someone whose family has personally been subject to death caused from asthma, air quality concerns are premier in my thoughts. We feel confident that this project will definitely be a step forward in those efforts because it is a product of good engineering. Unfortunately, recent environmental litigation affecting the local harbors has yet to allow any significant infrastructure projects to be completed, regardless of designs to address environmental concerns. As a result of these recently failed proposals, it cannot be said that any progress has truly been made in the area. Permanent progression of environmental efforts will only occur when long standing, or "permanent", structures are built that will **require** the latest "green" technology. Until then, those efforts may only last as long as the proposed vehicles who utilize it.

The approval of the Marine Terminal Project will therefore be a significant step for all of us, both in environmental and economic terms. Please approve this project as soon as possible.

Sincerely,


John Schafer
Business Manager, Recording Secretary
Pile Drivers Local 2375, Southwest Regional Council of Carpenters