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April 2, 2014

**SUBJECT: NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE AVALON AND FRIES SEGMENTS CLOSURE PROJECT**

The City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) has prepared an Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) to address the environmental impacts of the proposed permanent segment closures of Avalon Boulevard and Fries Avenue between Water Street and West A Street (Project). The proposed Project involves the physical closure of segments of Avalon Boulevard and Fries Avenue by installing street modifications that include cul-de-sacs, curbs and gutters, and fencing and signage.

The overall Project objective is to minimize rail traffic delays/lengthy blockages at existing roadways that will occur due to recent and projected rail operational changes for the West Basin Terminal. These rail operational changes would improve the efficiency of service to TraPac, Yang Ming, China Shipping container terminals and other Harbor Department rail customers, and reduce congestion by allowing simultaneous moves of unit container trains destined for the Yang Ming and TraPac container terminals. The proposed Project would also comply with the California Public Utilities Commission General Order 135 rule, which limits road crossing blockages due to stopped or switching train cars to 10 minutes.

In order to maintain adequate access and circulation in the Project area, the proposed Project would not occur until the completion of the South Wilmington Grade Separation Project, which is a separate project that is scheduled to open in January 2015. The construction of the South Wilmington Grade Separation Project will allow for direct, quick, and safe access to the waterfront, supplementing the proposed Project segments proposed for closure.

The IS/MND has been prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Public Resources Code Section 21000 *et seq.* and the State CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulation Section 15000 *et seq.* The IS/MND includes a discussion of the proposed Project's effects on the existing environment, including the identification of mitigation measures to reduce potential impacts. No significant effects that could not be mitigated to a less than significant level were identified. In accordance with CEQA Statutes and Guidelines, the IS/MND is being circulated for a period of 30 days for public review and comment.

**The public review period will start on April 4, 2014, and end on May 5, 2014.** During this period, the public may provide written comments on the information contained in the IS/MND. Copies of the IS/MND may be viewed at the Port of Los Angeles website at <http://www.portoflosangeles.org>; the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department Environmental Management Division at 222 W. Sixth Street, Suite 1080, San Pedro, CA; the City of Los Angeles Public Library San Pedro Branch at 931 S. Gaffey Street, San Pedro, CA; and the City of Los Angeles Public Library Wilmington Branch at 1300 N. Avalon, Wilmington, CA.

**The Harbor Department will hold a public meeting on Tuesday, April 22, 2014, at 6:00 pm at Banning's Landing, located at 100 E. Water Street, Wilmington, CA to present the Project and Draft IS/MND.** Comments can be submitted at the public meeting.


**By May 5, 2014,** written comments can also be submitted as shown below. Please include "Avalon/Fries Street Segment Closures IS/MND" in the subject line, and a valid mailing address in the email.

**By mail to:** Christopher Cannon  
Director of Environmental Management  
City of Los Angeles Harbor Department  
425 S. Palos Verdes Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731

**By email to:** [ceqacomment@portla.org](mailto:ceqacomment@portla.org)

For more information, please contact the Environmental Management Division at (310)732-3675.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER CANNON  
Director of Environmental Management