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January 23, 2009

Dr. Ralph G. Appy
Port of Los Angeles
425 South Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro CA 90731



RE: Wilmington Waterfront Project

Dear Dr. Appy,

As a longtime area resident and small business owner, may I first say Thank you to the Port of Los Angeles & its staff for all of the planning and work that has gone into the Wilmington Waterfront Draft EIR – the Project will become a great asset for our area of Southern California.

I attended the Jan 15 public meeting and was pleased to see that there was widespread community support for the project.

I heard Coach Tim Humphrey speak at that meeting about his vision for a youth rowing program at POLA. I understand that the close-by USC Rowing Program and Boathouse has very kindly offered to host a youth rowing program once negotiations with the POLA for an extended lease are completed.

Since the USC Rowing program is located so close to the core of the Wilmington Waterfront Project and its youth missions are also in accordance with the broader community outreach goals of the Wilmington Waterfront Master Plan, I congratulate the Port of Los Angeles and USC for their vision in moving this process forward.

I and many others in the area look forward to our student athletes achieving success in their rowing and college careers with the help of the Port of Los Angeles and the Wilmington Waterfront Project.

Best regards

Hamish R. Bell