



**THE PORT
OF LOS ANGELES**

Executive Director's
Report to the
Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: MARCH 13, 2013

FROM: PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A LEVEL III
COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT (NO. 13-02) TO RAISE SEVEN
CRANES 22 FEET AT TRAPAC TERMINAL (BERTHS 136-147)**

SUMMARY:

TraPac Inc. (TraPac) is proposing to raise seven cranes 22 feet to service larger container vessels at Berths 136-147. Currently the cranes are only able to service 6,600 TEU vessels due to the limited height of the cranes. Raising the cranes will allow TraPac to accommodate up to 12,000 TEU vessels by accessing containers on the top of the stacks on the deck of the vessel. Staff is recommending that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) approve a Level III, non-appealable Coastal Development Permit (CDP) No. 13-02 for the proposed project.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners:

1. Hold a public hearing for the proposed Level III, non-appealable Coastal Development Permit No. 13-02;
2. Find that the proposed project conforms with the Port Master Plan and the California Coastal Act of 1976, as amended, and find that the proposed project will have no significant adverse environmental impacts as provided in the California Environmental Quality Act;
3. Upon closure of the public hearing, resolve to approve the issuance of a Level III, non-appealable Coastal Development Permit No. 13-02 to raise seven cranes 22 feet at Berths 136-147, subject to the standard conditions set forth in the permit, and direct the Director of Planning & Economic Development to issue said permit; and
4. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

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SUBJECT: LEVEL III CDP NO. 13-02 RAISE 7 CRANES 22 FEET AT TRAPAC TERMINAL (BERTHS 136-147)

DISCUSSION:

Background/Context – TraPac is located at Berths 136-147 in the West Basin area of the Wilmington District of the Port of Los Angeles (Port) (Transmittal 1). TraPac is undergoing a \$360 million expansion project of which the Port has spent approximately \$120 million to date. The project includes wharf improvements, Alternative Maritime Power (AMP) installation, new terminal buildings and main gate, and automated backland infrastructure improvements. To support the terminal improvements, TraPac installed three taller cranes in 2008. To further support this expansion project, TraPac is proposing to raise the height of its seven pre-2008 cranes to service the larger vessels.

Project Scope of Work – TraPac is proposing to raise seven of its ten container cranes an additional 22 feet in height. The proposed project will increase the height of the crane apex from 273 feet to 295 feet. For each crane, the existing leg supports will be cut and a 22 foot leg extension will be inserted. Each leg will be braced with diagonal supports under the crane's portal beam for stability. Currently, the pre-2008 cranes are capable of servicing 6,600 TEU vessels. Raising the cranes an additional 22 feet will allow these cranes to service 12,000 TEU vessels. Because of the competitive nature of the shipping industry, larger vessels are being built to accommodate more containers per ship resulting in lower container shipping costs. Terminal operators need to accommodate the larger vessels with higher container stacks on deck. Transmittal 2 shows the heights of the existing cranes and drawing of the modification work to be performed.

The estimated project cost is \$12 million and TraPac will fund the project. No public funds will be used to pay for the proposed project. Construction is expected to start in April 2013 and last approximately six months.

Coastal Permit Requirements – The proposed project, located in Master Planning Area 5, is a Level III, non-appealable project in accordance with the definitions set forth in the *Guidelines for Implementation of the Port of Los Angeles Certified Port Master Plan*. A Level III permit is one of three levels of permits that the Board can issue (Transmittal 3). Level III permits are required for developments that involve large capital expenditures, have a risk of substantial adverse environmental impacts that can be mitigated, involve the potential for unavoidable adverse impacts that cannot be mitigated, or result in major changes in land and/or water uses.

The proposed project has been found to be consistent with the Port Master Plan, as the proposed development is a General Cargo use, which is an allowable use in Master Planning Area 5. The proposed project has also been found to be consistent with Chapter 8 policies of the California Coastal Act of 1976, as amended. Specifically, the

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container cranes are consistent with Section 30708 that requires port-related development be given highest priority for the use of existing land within harbors for port purposes, including shipping industries.

The public notice to increase the height of seven existing container cranes was published on March 6, 2013 (Transmittal 4).

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is the issuance of a CDP to increase the height of seven of ten existing cranes at TraPac to accommodate larger vessels which would not increase throughput. Environmental impacts previously analyzed in the certified Environmental Impact Report and adopted mitigation measures would not change as a result of the proposed action. The proposed modifications to the cranes would be consistent with the existing visual character. There would be no new impacts or increase in severity of impacts related to air quality or other resource areas. As such, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action, involving modification of mechanical equipment which are accessory to the use of existing facilities and involve negligible expansion of use, is exempt under Article III, Class 1(32) of the City of Los Angeles CEQA Guidelines.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

The proposed project associated with this CDP is anticipated to support approximately 92 direct one-year equivalent construction jobs in the five-county region.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Issuance of the proposed Level III CDP will not have a financial impact on the Harbor Department. TraPac will fully bear the \$12 million cost to raise the cranes.

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CITY ATTORNEY:

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

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Site Map
2. TraPac Crane Modification Plan
3. CDP No. 13-02
4. Public Notice

FIS Approval:  (initials)

CA Approval:  (initials)


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APPROVED:


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