



**THE PORT
OF LOS ANGELES**

Executive Director's
Report to the
Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: APRIL 4, 2013

FROM: PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ – ISSUANCE OF A LEVEL I COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT (NO. 13-06) TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FRONT STREET BEAUTIFICATION PROJECT

SUMMARY:

The City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) is proposing to implement the Front Street Beautification Project (Front Street Project), a landscape and street improvement project along the northeast side of Front Street between Pacific Avenue and Swinford Street. The proposed project includes landscaping, a multi-use path, way-finding signage, and widening of Front Street. Staff is recommending the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) approve Coastal Development Permit (CDP) No. 13-06, a Level I, non-appealable permit for the proposed project.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners:

1. Find that the proposed project conforms with the Port Master Plan and the California Coastal Act of 1976, as amended, and find that this project will have no significant adverse environmental impacts as provided in the California Environmental Quality Act;
2. Authorize the Executive Director to approve the issuance of a Level I non-appealable Coastal Development Permit No. 13-06, consistent with the project description contained in Application for Discretionary Project No. 110224-026; and
3. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

DISCUSSION:

Background/Context – The Front Street Project is a \$6 million project for landscape enhancements and street improvements along the northeast side of Front Street between Pacific Avenue and Swinford Street (Transmittal 1). The objective of the Front Street Project is to create an open space buffer and pedestrian linkage between the San Pedro Waterfront and Wilmington. Currently, Front Street does not include sidewalks, curbs, and gutters. Specific goals of the project are to provide a pedestrian

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walkway including a 12 foot-wide mixed-use trail, landscape improvements, benches and way-finding signage. Additionally, Front Street will be widened four feet with curb and gutter improvements to meet City of Los Angeles standards (Transmittal 2). Construction is scheduled to begin in mid-2014 with completion scheduled for mid-2015. The project is funded with Harbor Department revenue funds. Ongoing operation and maintenance costs of the project are estimated at an annual cost of \$216,300.

Coastal Permit Requirements – The proposed project, located in Master Planning Area 3, is a Level I, 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 I permit is one of three levels of permits that the Board can issue (Transmittal 3). Level I permits are issued for developments that involve minimal changes in land/water use, and minor changes in density and intensity of use.

The proposed project has been found to be consistent with the Port Master Plan which is an allowable use in Master Planning Area 3. 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 Front Street Beautification Project is consistent with Section 30708 as it provides for other beneficial uses consistent with the public trust, including, but not limited to, recreational uses to the extent feasible.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is approval of a CDP for construction of the Front Street Beautification Project. The landscaping portion of the Project is part of a mitigation measure in the Berths 97-109 [China Shipping] Container Terminal Project Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) / Environmental Impact Report (EIR) which was certified by the Board in December of 2008. Therefore, as an activity for which the underlying project has previously been evaluated for environmental significance and an activity involving minor alteration of an existing bicycle and pedestrian trail involving no removal of scenic resources, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Article II, Section 2 (i) and Article III, Class 1 (3) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

Approval of the proposed CDP will have no employment impact for the five-county region. The proposed project associated with this CDP is anticipated to support 48 one-year equivalent construction jobs in the region.

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FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Issuance of the proposed Level I CDP No. 13-06 will allow for the implementation of the Front Street Project at an estimated cost to the Harbor Department of \$6 million funded with Harbor Department funds. The Harbor Department has requested \$128,683 be included in the FY 13/14 proposed budget and \$6,022,587 will be requested during the budget process for FY 14/15. Subsequent to project completion ongoing operating and maintenance costs will be borne by the Harbor Department at an estimated annual cost of \$216,300 annually.

CITY ATTORNEY:

The City Attorney has reviewed this Board Report and concluded that it raises no legal issues at this time.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Site Location Map
2. Front Street Beautification Project Rendering
3. CDP No. 13-06

FIS Approval:  (initials)
CA Approval:  (initials)


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APPROVED:


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