

September 5, 2019

Dear Stakeholder,

When I became Executive Director of the Port of Los Angeles, staff brought to my attention the languishing compliance with the 2008 China Shipping expansion Environmental Impact Report (EIR) and associated mitigation measures. In the spirit of transparency, I immediately brought this issue to the public, acknowledging that the process to rebuild trust must start with full disclosure of these circumstances. With a focus on remaining solutions-oriented, I also immediately directed staff to begin a supplemental environmental impact report (SEIR) to bring about legal compliance and to ensure that we fulfill our obligations for the Berth 97 – 109 Container Terminal under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

In 2015, we began a dialogue with key stakeholders in this process, including the Natural Resources Defense Council and its clients, to inform them of the steps that will be taken to put us back on track. After several years of required reassessment of the feasibility and necessity for each of the measures that were not implemented, including responses to many important comments from the public, we are now ready to present a Final SEIR to our Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) for consideration.

Certification of this Final SEIR is essential for maintaining the operation that was responsible for 17% of our 9.7 million Twenty-Foot Equivalent Units that were processed in Fiscal Year-ending June 30, 2019, and the associated jobs, while implementing crucial environmental improvements.

If we are unable to move forward, this facility will remain out of compliance with CEQA, with closure of the terminal a real possibility. Not only would this prolong an already lengthy process, but it could result in more than 800 jobs being displaced and delay implementation of additional mitigation measures. Job loss and the sustained air pollution are unacceptable outcomes, especially when we have a path to usher in the cleanest conventionally operated port terminal in the San Pedro Bay.

As Executive Director I believe staff and I have demonstrated through the indoctrination of the updated Clean Air Action Plan that the entire organization represents to reassert and reaffirm our commitment to transparency, integrity, and results. I look forward to working with you toward delivering the environmental and economic outcomes we both seek.

I welcome your input and partnership.

Sincerely,



EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director