

**DATE: NOVEMBER 10, 2021**

**FROM: ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT**

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_ - CONSIDER THE ADDENDUM TO THE AVALON FREIGHT SERVICES PROJECT FINAL INITIAL STUDY/NEGATIVE DECLARATION AND APPROVE THE BERTH 95 BARGE RAMP IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT APPLICATION FOR PORT PERMIT NO. 201019-163; STATE CLEARINGHOUSE NO. 2014101049)**

**SUMMARY:**

Staff requests consideration of the Addendum to the Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration (IS/ND) for the Avalon Freight Services (Avalon Freight) Project (Project) and approval of the Project improving the Berth 95 barge landing ramp.

The Addendum modifies the Project by upgrading the barge landing ramp at Berth 95 to fix the ramp design and improve barge access. No significant environmental impacts are expected from these project modifications. Costs associated with the preparation of the Addendum amounted to approximately \$2,500 in California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) staffing and were borne by the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department). This action by the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) neither authorizes any expenditures related to the project modifications nor commits the Harbor Department to complete them. All CEQA costs are planned to be reimbursed by the applicant through an amendment to the applicant's permit that will allow the use of rent credits for CEQA reimbursement payment.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board):

1. Consider the Addendum to the adopted 2015 Avalon Freight Services Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration;
2. Approve the Avalon Freight Services Project to improve the Berth 95 barge landing ramp;

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3. Find that, in accordance with the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines Section 15164, the revised Project will not result in any significant environmental effects or substantially more severe effects than previously analyzed in the adopted Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration for the Avalon Freight Services Project;
4. Authorize the Environmental Management Division to file a Notice of Determination with the Los Angeles County Clerk and the State Clearinghouse; and
5. Adopt Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_.

**DISCUSSION:**

In January 2015, the Board adopted the Final IS/ND for the Project. The Project included a shift in operators and construction of a 20,000 square foot warehouse/office space, waterside improvements for the addition of three new marine vessels, new landside operational equipment, security fencing, and parking lot/crosswalk striping. Waterside improvements consisted of removing six-inch side curbs from the existing concrete ramp, installation of approximately 22 new pilings, and replacement/installation of three fiberglass floats.

This Addendum assesses upgrades to the barge landing ramp at Berth 95 to fix the ramp design and improve barge access. The ramp at Berth 95 is used by Avalon Freight's barges to bring supplies to Catalina Island and return with refuse. Currently, the angle of the barge landing ramp is not optimal and it cannot be utilized by Avalon Freight during low or high tides. Improvements to the ramp would allow Avalon Freight to utilize the ramp with the same frequency, but on a preferred schedule not dependent on tides. The barge landing ramp upgrades include demolition and removal of approximately 5,000 square feet of in-water concrete ramp, dredging and disposal of approximately 3,000 cubic yards of sediment, furnishing and placing approximately 850 cubic yards of quarry run and rip rap, and casting in place of an approximately 400 square foot approach concrete slab.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:**

In November 2021, the Harbor Department issued the Addendum to the Final IS/ND for the Project (Transmittal 1) and posted it on the Port of Los Angeles' website under the Environmental Documents tab. The Addendum was prepared pursuant to CEQA and modifies the project description to fix the barge landing ramp at Berth 95 to improve barge access.

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On January 22, 2015, the Board adopted the Final IS/ND, which shifted the operator for freight transportation and constructed a new location for warehouse and administrative offices, as well as waterside and landside improvements.

According to Section 15164(b) of the State CEQA Guidelines, the Lead Agency may prepare an Addendum to an adopted ND "if only minor technical changes or additions are necessary, or none of the conditions described in Section 15162 calling for a subsequent Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or ND have occurred." The Director of the Environmental Management Division has determined that none of the conditions set forth in CEQA Guidelines Section 15162 have occurred; therefore, an Addendum is the appropriate document. An Addendum does not need to be circulated for public review but can be included in or attached to the Final EIR or adopted ND per CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 (c). The Board is required to "consider" the Addendum with the Final EIR or adopted Negative Declaration prior to making a decision on the Project per CEQA Guidelines Section 15164 (d).

The proposed action is consideration of the Addendum, which modifies the project description with upgrades to the barge landing ramp at Berth 95 to fix the ramp design and improve barge access, and approval of the Project. The barge landing ramp upgrades include demolition and removal of approximately 5,000 square feet of in-water concrete ramp, dredging and disposal of approximately 3,000 cubic yards of sediment, furnishing and placing approximately 850 cubic yards of quarry run and rip rap, and casting in place of an approximately 400 square-foot approach concrete slab. Based on the findings of the Addendum, the proposed action would create no potential adverse impacts or substantial changes to impact areas previously analyzed in the Final IS/ND and therefore does not trigger any of the conditions calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR or ND under CEQA Guidelines Section 15162. With no new impacts or increased severity of environmental impacts, no mitigation is necessary.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

CEQA staff costs associated with the preparation of the Addendum to the Final IS/ND of the Project amounted to approximately \$2,500 and were borne by the Harbor Department. This Board action neither authorizes any expenditures related to the revised Project nor commits the Harbor Department to complete the modifications. Award of any capital construction contract related to the revised Project would require Board approval under a separate action. All CEQA costs are planned to be included in an amendment allowing the use of rent credits for payment.

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FOR THE AVALON FREIGHT SERVICES PROJECT

**CITY ATTORNEY:**

The office of the City Attorney has reviewed the Addendum and this Board Report and concluded that they raise no legal issues at this time.

**TRANSMITTAL:**

1. Addendum to the Avalon Freight Services Project Final Initial Study/Negative Declaration

FIS Approval: *MB*  
CA Approval: *JC*



CHRISTOPHER CANNON  
Director of Environmental Management

*Michael DiBernardo*

MICHAEL DiBERNARDO  
Deputy Executive Director

APPROVED:

*Marla Bleavins* For

EUGENE D. SEROKA  
Executive Director

CC/YO  
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APP NO.: 201019-163

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