



DATE: MARCH 30, 2011

FROM: PLANNING & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

**SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - STAFF RESPONSE TO THE PORT OF
LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
RECOMMENDATION NOS. 104 AND 105 REGARDING LOCATING
THE USS IOWA AT BERTH 87**

SUMMARY:

Port of Los Angeles Community Advisory Committee (PCAC) Recommendation No. 104 requests that the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) provide berthing space for the battleship USS Iowa and backland space sufficient to construct an upland museum. PCAC Recommendation No. 105 identifies Berth 87 as the preferred location to berth the USS Iowa. The Harbor Department is currently working with the Pacific Battleship Center (PBC) to locate the USS Iowa at Berth 87 within the Port of Los Angeles (Port), subject to the U.S. Navy awarding the ship to the PBC and complying with all conditions outlined in the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) Resolution No. 10-7038. Port staff recommends approving PCAC Recommendation Nos. 104 and 105.

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board of Harbor Commissioners:

1. Consider and approve the Port of Los Angeles Community Advisory Committee Recommendation Nos. 104 and 105 to the extent to which they are consistent with Board Resolution No. 10-7038 dated February 16, 2011; and
2. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

DISCUSSION:

Background – On September 21, 2010, the PCAC approved Recommendation No. 104 requesting that the Harbor Department provide berthing and backland space for the USS Iowa and potential upland museum (Transmittal #1). On November 16, 2010, the PCAC approved Recommendation No. 105 recommending Berth 87 as the preferred location for the USS Iowa (Transmittal #2). At the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) meeting of November 18, 2010, Resolution No. 10-7038 was adopted, resolving that space could be made available at Berth 87, provided the U.S. Navy awards the ship

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to the PBC, and all Federal, State, and local environmental and public health and safety regulations and permit requirements, including CEQA and NEPA, are complied with, and the PBC meets other requirements in terms of financial responsibility, including an escrow account, and the Harbor Department has the right to inspect the USS Iowa before its arrival (Transmittal #3).

Staff Analysis – Staff concurs with PCAC Recommendation Nos. 104 and 105 that the Port should pursue, in coordination with the PBC, locating the USS Iowa at Berth 87. In November 2009, the PBC proposed to berth the USS Iowa at the Port, with Berth 87 being their preferred site. Harbor Department staff assessed ten potential sites to berth the USS Iowa and determined that Berth 87 provided the best location within the Port. Approving PCAC Recommendation Nos. 104 and 105 is consistent with Board Resolution No. 10-7038.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is to consider and approve PCAC Recommendation Nos. 104 and 105 for locating the USS Iowa at Berth 87. This action is limited to expressing the Port's interest in the proposal for siting the USS Iowa at Berth 87 and is not legally binding nor does it commit the Port to the approval of any permit or lease or any terms or conditions thereof, or any proposed project, including the PBC's proposal. Any proposed project concerning the USS Iowa would require an Application for Discretionary Project, which would be subject to review under the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The U.S. Navy would be required to undertake an assessment under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for awarding the ship to the PBC. As an administrative activity, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is exempt from CEQA in accordance with the Article II, Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

ECONOMIC BENEFITS:

The Board's action on this staff recommendation will not have a direct employment effect.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

This Board action, which approves PCAC Recommendation Nos. 104 and 105, would have no financial impact. Financial impacts of locating the USS Iowa at Berth 87 were assessed under Board Resolution No. 10-7038.

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CITY ATTORNEY:

The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed this Board letter and determined that there are no legal issues to address at this time.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. PCAC Recommendation No. 104
2. PCAC Recommendation No. 105
3. Resolution No. 10-7038 of the Board of Harbor Commissioners, November 18, 2010.

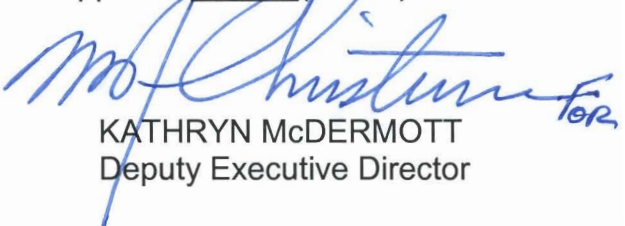

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APPROVED:


GERALDINE KNATZ, Ph.D.
Executive Director

FIS Approval: KP (initials)

CA Approval: TR (initials)


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