



April 15, 2009

Mr. David S. Freeman
President, Port of Los Angeles Harbor Commission
425 South Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Dear Commissioner Freeman:

The San Pedro Chamber Board of Directors recommends the adaptive reuse of the former Southwest Marine Center as the proposed Gambol Maritime Center. It also recommends the retention of the present Land Use Classification that has been in place since 1918; and it recommends the modification of the Channel Deepening EIR to allow for only partially filling in of the South Slip at 240Z.

The Board feels that this project would allow for the creation of jobs, and would continue the tradition of ship building and repair at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Therefore, it is important not to fill the slips at Berth 240Z as this would eliminate an important asset needed to allow the adaptive reuse of the Southwest Marine site. A World Class Port should have a shipyard with the ability to service its important tenants and visiting vessels.

We feel it is important to the community to retain the structures that are a part of our history, while allowing for a much-needed shipyard, repair, and lay-berthing facilities. It is critical in this economic climate to pursue diversifying business opportunities at the Port of Los Angeles.

We also applaud that this project will be a privately funded enterprise, and that it will promote the Chamber's policy of supporting the use of green technologies.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations and concerns.

Sincerely,

John Ek
Chairman, Board of Directors

Camilla Townsend
President/CEO

- Cc: Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa
Councilmember Janice Hahn, District 15
Dr. Geraldine Knatz
✓ Dr. Ralph Appy
Dave Mathewson

990809-102