

July 9, 2008

Somesh Debnath  
1021 Old Phillips Road  
Glendale, CA 91207

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District  
Regulatory Division  
c/o Spencer D. MacNeil D.Env.  
ATTN: CESPL-RG-2003-01029-SDM  
P.O. Box 532711  
Los Angeles, California 90053-2325

Dr. Ralph G. Appy, Director of Environmental Management  
Port of Los Angeles  
425 South Palos Verdes Street  
San Pedro, CA 90731

Dear Mr. MacNeil and Dr. Appy:

**Subject: Support for Approval of China Shipping Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**

I am writing in support of the Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce and the approval of the China Shipping EIR.

This organization represents more than 100 major firms, employing many in the engineering, energy and maritime sectors. The Boards of the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce and the Port Community Advisory Committee also deserve our support in this matter.

The Harbor Association supports this project for the following reasons:

- It is important for the national and international credibility of the Port of Los Angeles, which has had many other projects delayed for more than half a decade. These delays have hurt the competitiveness of our Ports and our Southern California economy. By approving and completing this project, we can show our international partners that we wish to continue a successful global business partnership with them in which we have invested so heavily, for so many years.
- The US needs business and this is an extremely well thought out project, which has been the subject of the most comprehensive planning and review, with an unparalleled level of impact mitigation. While any large industrial project will have impacts, the Port of Los Angeles and China Shipping have done an extraordinary job to mitigate impacts resulting from this project.
- Approval of this project also requires "green" port technologies, which are required as mitigation measures. These will be developed and produced with local labor in progressively greater volumes. We are working with the San Pedro and Wilmington Chambers of Commerce, area Universities and Technology Firms to make San Pedro and Wilmington the global center of the port technology industry.
- Many of the engineering and construction firms in the Los Angeles basin will have the opportunity to design and build this project. The China Shipping project will create employment, which will bring revenues into the local community at a time of national and regional recession in the construction industry.

Therefore, I strongly support the Board of Harbor Commissioners in their approval of the China Shipping EIR. Your support will mean a strong economy for Southern California. Thank you.

Sincerely,

  
Somesh Debnath