

LEVEL I COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT REPORT

DATE: FEBRUARY 8, 2024

**TO: HONORABLE MEMBERS OF
THE BOARD OF HARBOR COMMISSIONERS**

**ISSUED: LEVEL I COASTAL DEVELOPMENT PERMIT NO. 24-02 TO THE PORT
OF LOS ANGELES FOR GATE AND FENCE INSTALLATION AT
CATALINA EXPRESS**

BACKGROUND

In accordance with the approved Port of Los Angeles Master Plan (PMP), the Executive Director is designated with the authority to approve or deny applications for Level I Coastal Development Permits (CDP), but these CDPs only become effective when the permits are reported in writing to the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board). No Board action is required. Additionally, the PMP provides that a Level I CDP that is being reported to the Board can be stayed if any two Board members so request. In this case, the CDP would be agendized for the next regular Board meeting and would require Board action to be approved or denied.

PERMIT ACTIONS

The Executive Director issued Level I CDP No. 24-02 on February 8, 2024.

CDP No. 24-02 Port of Los Angeles – Catalina Express Gate and Fence Installation

The project location for the approved CDP is identified on the attached map (Transmittal 1).

SUBJECT: LEVEL I CDP REPORT

COASTAL PERMIT CONTEXT

CDP No. 24-02 (Transmittal 2) allows the Port of Los Angeles to install fencing and gates at the entrance of the Catalina Express parking lot at Berth 95. The proposed work includes the installation of wrought iron fencing, two vehicular double-swing gates, and one pedestrian double-swing gate. New fencing and gates would match the design and connect to the existing wrought iron fencing on both sides of Swinford Street. Similar parking lot fencing and gates enclose the nearby parking lot for the cruise terminal.

The request is being made by the Waterfront Commercial Real Estate Division and Port Police to reduce vehicle burglaries of overnight vehicles in the Catalina Express parking lot. The new gate would cross Swinford Street approximately 275 feet east of the intersection of Swinford Street and Front Street. The gate would close Swinford Street and the nearby waterfront promenade from 10:30 pm to 5:00 am nightly. Gate closure and opening would be performed by Harbor Department security guards.

The new fencing and gate would cross the portion of the waterfront pedestrian promenade that extends east along Berths 93D-93E. Access to this portion of the promenade and the bocce ball courts at Berth 93E would be blocked when the gate is closed. The courts currently do not have any official hours of operation but are typically used during the day.

The proposed Project is in Planning Area 1 and crosses areas designated for cruise operations and open space use in the Port Master Plan (Section 5.3.1). The proposed project requires a Level I CDP because the nighttime closure of the pedestrian promenade and bocce ball courts is considered a minimal impact to public access, a coastal resource. In addition, Section 6.4.2 of the PMP identifies the installation of fencing as an example of a Level I CDP. The proposed project would not affect the density or intensity of the use of land because the 6.5-hour closure occurs at night when the bocce ball courts are unused. Special Condition No. 1 has been added to CDP No. 24-02 requiring the gates to be opened during daylight hours to allow public access to the promenade and bocce ball courts. This is consistent with PMP Policy 1.4, which states that coastal areas suitable for water-oriented recreational activities shall be protected for such uses where they do not interfere with commercial or hazardous operations or activities. Because there is no change in use, the project is consistent with underlying cruise and open space land use designations.

The Environmental Management Division has reviewed the proposed project and determined that the proposed project proposed action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Article III Class 1(12) and 3(6) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines. The fencing would not require the removal of any native vegetation and no significant environmental impacts were identified.

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The estimated cost for the project scope of work is \$45,000. The cost would be paid by the Harbor Department. Construction is expected to take approximately four months.

TRANSMITTALS

1. Site Map
2. Coastal Development Permit No. 24-02

CA Approval: SO

Marla Bleavins For
EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director

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EDS:MD:MK:jr/Planning & Strategy
Michael DiBernardo

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