



**THE PORT
OF LOS ANGELES**

Executive Director's
Report to the
Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: MAY 6, 2026

FROM: CARGO MARKETING

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE (FTZ) OPERATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT AND DMF, INC. DBA DMF LIGHTING, FTZ 202, SITE 67

SUMMARY:

Staff requests approval of a Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) Operating Agreement (Agreement) between the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) and DMF, Inc. dba DMF Lighting (DMF), to operate its facility within FTZ 202, Site 67, located at 1118 E. 223rd Street, Carson, CA, 90745. This is a 2.1-acre site with a warehouse and office space located approximately nine miles from the Port of Los Angeles (Port). DMF will operate its facility under FTZ procedures as a single-usage site.

The proposed Agreement is for a term of five years with three, five-year renewal options. If the proposed Agreement is approved, the Harbor Department will receive \$10,000 annually from DMF (per FTZ Tariff No. 2).

RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Find that the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines;
2. Approve the proposed Foreign-Trade Zone Operating Agreement between the Harbor Department and DMF;
3. Authorize the Executive Director to execute and the Board Secretary to attest to the proposed Foreign-Trade Zone Operating Agreement; and
4. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

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**SUBJECT: FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH DMF, INC.
DBA DMF LIGHTING, FTZ 202, SITE 67**

DISCUSSION:

Background and Context – The FTZ Act of 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u), was established to support U.S. commerce and create jobs by reducing import duties or excise taxes by deferring payment of duties, thereby making it attractive for companies to perform some work on their products in the U.S. rather than offshore. The definition of an FTZ is a restricted access site located in the U.S. Customs and Border Protection territories. The importer may defer payment of duties and other fees until the merchandise is brought into the U.S. for consumption.

Need for Agreement – The Harbor Department, as the FTZ grantee, is required by the FTZ Board to have an Operating Agreement with FTZ site operators. The term of this proposed FTZ Operating Agreement is five years with three, five-year extensions (Transmittal 1). DMF, a U.S. company with its head office located in Carson, CA, will employ 52 full-time employees at this FTZ site. This 2.1-acre property includes a warehouse and office space (Transmittal 2) and is within the FTZ 202 service area (Transmittal 3).

DMF shall follow the rules and procedures as outlined in the Department of Homeland Security's FTZ manual, such as providing a secure area within the FTZ. DMF shall notify truck drivers, truck brokers, and trucking companies that the trucks serving the Port confine their routes to the designated Wilmington Truck Route.

Need for Approval – DMF is requesting approval from the Harbor Department to execute the proposed FTZ Operating Agreement to operate Site 67 as a single-usage FTZ facility. DMF receives, stores, manages inventory, and distributes various general merchandise which will be issued for U.S. consumption. Occasionally, products may be re-exported from this facility.

If DMF does not obtain approval as an operator with FTZ status from the Harbor Department, they potentially have the choice of going to another FTZ in California such as Long Beach.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is the approval of the FTZ Agreement with DMF, which is an administrative activity. Therefore, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is administratively exempt from the requirements of CEQA in accordance with Article II Section 2(f) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

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**SUBJECT: FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH DMF, INC.
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FINANCIAL IMPACT:

If the proposed Agreement is approved, the Harbor Department will receive \$10,000 annually from DMF (per FTZ Tariff No. 2).

Approval of the FTZ Operating Agreement is not anticipated to result in additional, incremental FTZ-related consulting service expenses being incurred by the Harbor Department.

CITY ATTORNEY:

The City Attorney's Office has prepared and approved the proposed Operating Agreement as to form and legality.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Proposed FTZ Operating Agreement, FTZ 202, Site 67
2. FTZ 202, Site 67 Site Map
3. FTZ 202 Service Area Map

FIS Approval: *MM*
CA Approval: *SO*

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APPROVED:

Erica M. Calhoun for

EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director

CC:AD:JY:aa