

DATE: FEBRUARY 19, 2025

FROM: CARGO MARKETING

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVAL OF FOREIGN-TRADE ZONE (FTZ) OPERATING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES HARBOR DEPARTMENT AND CEVA FREIGHT, LLC, FTZ 202, SITE 30

SUMMARY:

Staff requests approval of a Foreign-Trade Zone (FTZ) Operating Agreement between the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor Department) and Ceva Freight, LLC (Ceva), to operate its facility within FTZ No. 202, Site 30, located at 19600 Western Ave, Torrance, CA 90501. Site 30 consists of 305,000 square feet of warehouse and 22,000 square feet of office space on 7.1 acres located in Torrance, California. Ceva will operate its facility under the FTZ procedures as a multi-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 \$7,750 annually from Ceva (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 Ceva;
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: FTZ OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH CEVA FREIGHT, LLC

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 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 extension options (Transmittal 1). Ceva is a U.S. company with its head office located in Houston, Texas, employing approximately 40 employees. This facility consists of approximately 305,400 square feet of warehouse and office space on 7.1 acres (Transmittal 2) and is within the FTZ 202 service area (Transmittal 3).

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

Need for Approval – Ceva is requesting approval from the Harbor Department to execute the proposed Agreement to operate Site 30 as a multi-usage FTZ facility. Ceva receives, stores, manages inventory, and distributes various general merchandise, which will be distributed for U.S. consumption. Occasionally, products may be re-exported from this facility.

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

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SUBJECT: FTZ OPERATING AGREEMENT WITH CEVA FREIGHT, LLC

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

If the proposed Agreement is approved, the Harbor Department will receive \$7,750 annually from Ceva (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 agreement as to form and legality.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Proposed FTZ Operating Agreement for Ceva Freight, LLC, FTZ 202, Site 30
2. FTZ 202, Site 30 Map
3. FTZ 202, Service Area Map

FIS Approval: JS
CA Approval: EO



ERIC CARIS
Director of Cargo Marketing

Michael DiBernardo

MICHAEL DiBERNARDO
Deputy Executive Director

APPROVED:

Erica M. Calhoun for

EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director