From: Appy, Ralph
To: Maun-DeSantis, Lena;
Subject: FW: EPA note re. POLA Channel Deepening FSEIS alternatives
Date: Thursday, April 23, 2009 1:26:04 PM

From: Ross.Brian@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Ross.Brian@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2009 10:58 AM
To: Appy, Ralph
Cc: Amato.Paul@epamail.epa.gov
Subject: EPA note re. POLA Channel Deepening FSEIS alternatives

Dear Dr. Appy,

EPA has received the Final Supplemental EIS for the Port of Los Angeles Channel Deepening Project. We are in the process of preparing our official agency comment letter, due May 17, 2009.

From a dredging and sediment management standpoint, completion of the FSIES will be an important milestone. EPA has been actively and intensively involved in coordinating on the Channel Deepening project for several years. Identification of placement options for the project's remaining 2.5-3 million cubic yards of dredged material, that are both environmentally acceptable and consistent with the beneficial reuse goals of the LA Contaminated Sediment Task Force (LA-CSTF) Long Term Management Plan, has been a long time coming.

EPA especially appreciates the Port's willingness to work closely with us to minimize ocean disposal of clean material that could otherwise be beneficially reused, and to incorporate the ability to responsibly manage contaminated material in "Port development" features of the project. Long term capacity for the removal and containment of contaminated sediments from various areas within the Port is in critically short supply, and the ability to generally improve sediment and water quality throughout the Port as a whole can be limited, in part, by this shortfall. That is why EPA has strongly encouraged, and will continue to strongly encourage, the incorporation of contaminated sediments into otherwise approved, and properly engineered, Port fill projects. Therefore we support the Port's approach in Alternative 1 ("Port Development and Environmental Enhancement") of engineering the proposed Berth 243-245 fill to also serve as a Confined Aquatic Disposal (CAD) site. This site could provide capacity for safely managing contaminated sediments from not only the Channel Deepening project, but potentially from other areas needing cleanup as well. Alternative 2 ("Environmental Enhancement and Ocean Disposal") creates no such capacity. Alternative 1 is also more consistent with the

LA-CSTF Management Plan, because it would result in less dredged material being disposed as a waste in the ocean and more material being beneficially reused than would Alternative 2. For these reasons we agree that, overall, the Recommended Alternative in the FSEIS, Alternative 1, is the environmentally superior alternative.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the FSEIS alternatives, and the proposed use of Berth 243-245 as a CAD site. If there are any questions, please give me a call. However, please note that this email does not serve as EPA's formal comments on the Channel Deepening Project FSEIS, which will follow under formal EPA letterhead.

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