



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS

P.O. BOX 532711

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90053-2325

July 8, 2008



Planning Division

DEAR INTERESTED PARTIES:

Enclosed for your review and comment is a copy of the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIS/SEIR) for the Port of Los Angeles Channel Deepening Project, Los Angeles, California. This Draft SEIS/SEIR describes the affected resources and evaluates the potential impacts to those resources as a result of the Proposed Action and alternatives. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to dispose of approximately 3.0 million cubic yards of dredge material required to complete the Channel Deepening Project and to beneficially reuse the dredge material within the Port of Los Angeles (Port).

This letter also serves as the Public Notice/Notice of Availability for the Section 404 Permit under Clean Water Act (CWA). A preliminary application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (the Corps) is considering an application submitted by the Port for a permit, in accordance with Section 404 of the CWA and Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act, to complete dredging activities outside of the Federal Channel and placement of the dredge material in waters of the United States in the Port of Los Angeles.

This SEIS/SEIR would be used by the Corps as part of their permit approval process. The Corps and the Port independently determined under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), respectively, that there are potential significant environmental impacts associated with the proposed action, and an Environmental Impact Statement and Environmental Impact Report are required.

Three Alternatives have been analyzed in the Draft SEIS/SEIR, including No Action. Alternative 1, Port Development and Environmental Enhancement was developed with a focus on using dredge material for port development and environmental enhancement and would involve use and development of the following disposal sites: Berths 243-245, the Northwest Slip, CSWH Expansion, the Eelgrass Habitat Area, and LA-2. Alternative 2, Environmental Enhancement and Ocean Disposal was developed with a focus on environmental enhancement related uses of the remaining material and does not include any disposal options associated with port development. Under Alternative 2, dredge material would be disposed at the CSWH Expansion, Eelgrass Habitat Area, LA-2 and the Anchorage Road Soil Storage Site. Under Alternative 3, the No Action Alternative, no further dredging would take place and the Channel Deepening Project would not be completed.

This Draft SEIS/SEIR has been filed with the Environmental Protection Agency to be published in the Federal Register and is available for a forty-five (45) day public review period.

Please forward your comments on the Draft SEIS/SEIR by mail, email, or fax to the contacts listed below by September 1, 2008.

Ms. Joy Jaiswal, Chief, Ecosystem Planning Section	Dr. Ralph Appy
Attn: Ms. Megan Wong	Los Angeles Harbor Department (LAHD)
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	425 South Palos Verdes Street
P.O. Box 532711	San Pedro, CA 90731
Los Angeles, California 90053-2325	Fax: (310) 831-6936
Fax: (213) 452-4204	ceqacomment@portla.org
Megan.T.Wong@usace.army.mil	

The Corps Los Angeles District and the Los Angeles Harbor Department (LAHD or Port) will jointly conduct a public meeting for the Port of Los Angeles Channel Deepening Project, Los Angeles, California Draft SEIS/SEIR on **August 6, 2008 at 6:30 p.m.**, to receive public comment and assess public concerns regarding the Draft SEIS/SEIR (Corps File Number 2008-00662-AOA). Participation in the Public Hearing by Federal, State and local agencies and other interested organizations and persons are encouraged. This meeting is to be conducted in English and Spanish. Members of the public who wish to communicate and listen entirely in Spanish are encouraged to attend this meeting. The meeting will be held at:

**Banning's Landing Community Center
100 East Water Street,
Wilmington, CA 90744**

Availability of the Draft SEIS/SEIR

The Draft SEIS/SEIR for the Proposed Action is being distributed directly to agencies, organizations, and interested groups and persons for comment during the 45-day formal review period in accordance with Section 15087 of the State CEQA Guidelines and 40 CFR Section 1506.10 of the CEQ NEPA Regulations. During the 45-day public review period, which begins on July 18, 2008, and ends on September 1, 2008, the Draft SEIS/SEIR is available for general public review at the following locations:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District
Environmental Resources Branch
915 Wilshire Blvd., 14th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90053

Port of Los Angeles
Environmental Management Division
425 South Palos Verdes Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Los Angeles Public Library
San Pedro Branch
921 South Gaffey Street
San Pedro, CA 90731

Los Angeles Public Library
Wilmington Branch
1300 North Avalon Boulevard
Wilmington, CA 90744

Los Angeles Public Library
Central Branch
630 West 5th Street
Los Angeles, CA 90071

In addition to printed copies of the Draft SEIS/SEIR, members of the public can request an electronic copy of the document on compact disc (CD). The Draft SEIS/SEIR is also available on the Port of Los Angeles' website at http://www.portoflosangeles.org/environment/public_notices.asp.

Should you have any questions, please contact any of the contacts listed below.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

Ms. Joy Jaiswal, Chief of Ecosystem Planning Section, at (213) 452-3851

Ms. Megan Wong, Environmental Coordinator, at (213) 452-3859

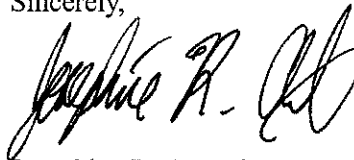
Dr. Aaron Allen, Chief, North Coast Section, at (805) 585-2148.

Los Angeles Harbor Department

Mr. John Foxworthy, Project Manager for the Channel Deepening Project, at (310) 521-1306

Dr. Ralph Appy, Director Environmental Management Division, at (310) 732-3497.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josephine R. Axt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, stylized initial "A" at the end.

Josephine R. Axt, Ph.D.
Chief, Planning Division

Enclosure