



THE PORT
OF LOS ANGELES
Executive Director's
Report to the

Board of Harbor Commissioners

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2016

FROM: PORT PILOTS

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION NO. _____ - APPROVING TEMPORARY ORDER AMENDING PORT OF LOS ANGELES TARIFF NO. 4, SECTION THREE, ITEM NO. 330 – “CHARGES FOR PILOTAGE”

SUMMARY:

Staff requests the Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) approve the City of Los Angeles Harbor Department (Harbor) to temporarily amend the Port of Los Angeles Tariff No. 4 (Tariff), Section Three, Item No. 330 - Charges for Pilotage. The Harbor Department provides piloting service that is available to all vessels calling at the Port of Los Angeles (Port). Per the Tariff, a sum of fees is assessed against all vessels subject to the payment of pilotage. Tariff Item No. 330 regarding Charges for Pilotage (Pilotage) is based on a vessel's tonnage and length over all plus surcharge per move. The proposed amendment will affect the Pilotage calculation such that the Gross Registered Ton (GRT) rate would increase to \$0.0063, the Surcharge per Move would increase to \$105, and the Overall Length (LOA) fee and all other fee schedules related to Pilotage would be increased approximately 25 percent, effective January 1, 2017. This proposed adjustment supports the ongoing phased cost recovery effort to balance the Los Angeles Port Pilot budget.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

1. Find that the proposed action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article III, Class 1(31) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines as determined by the Director of Environmental Management;
2. Approve the Amendment to Port of Los Angeles Tariff No. 4 revising Section Three Pilotage, Item No. 330 (b), (d), (e), (f), and (g), subject to the California Association of Port Authorities' review and approval, and authorize the Executive Director to work with California Association of Port Authorities to secure this approval or proceed to take independent action in accordance with California Association of Port Authorities procedure;
3. Adopt Temporary Order No. _____ to amend Section 3 Pilotage, Item No. 330 (b), (d), (e), (f), and (g) in the Port of Los Angeles Tariff No. 4;

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2016

PAGE 2 OF 4

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY ORDER - AMENDMENT TO TARIFF NO. 4 – CHARGES FOR PILOTAGE

4. Authorize the Board Secretary to certify to the adoption of the Temporary Order by the Board of Harbor Commissioners and cause the same to be published once in a newspaper printed and published in the City of Los Angeles, to take effect prior to adoption by Ordinance for a period not-to-exceed 90 days pursuant to City Charter Section 653(b); and
5. Adopt Resolution No. _____.

DISCUSSION:

Background/Context – The City of Los Angeles, acting by and through its Board of Harbor Commissioners, the governing body of the Port, maintains a force of federally licensed port pilots to perform the service of piloting vessels in, into and out of the Port. Any vessel entering, leaving, or shifting within the Port, by her owners, master, operators, charterers or agents, may request the services of and be piloted by a port pilot.

The Harbor Department provides piloting service for all ships over 300 Gross Tons entering, departing, or shifting within the Port. A tariff is then assessed against all vessels subject to the payment of pilotage (Pilotage). There are currently three basic components in the Tariff for Pilotage, charges for: Gross Registered Tonnage (GRT), Overall Length of Vessel (LOA) and a general assessment for capital improvements, maintenance, and training (Surcharge per Move). The charge for Pilotage is determined by the sum of the GRT calculation, the LOA rate, and the Surcharge per Move.

Previous Board Action – On July 1, 2016, the Tariff was amended to increase Pilotage Length Overall fee by 10 percent, increase GRT charge from \$0.0034 to the current rate of \$0.0060, and increase the Surcharge from \$52 to \$100 per move pursuant to Board Order 16-7202. Board Order No. 16-7202 also approved the expansion of the LOA in meters charge to include any vessels calling that are 394 meters and over.

This proposed increase in addition to the increase that went into effect on July 1, 2016 are intended to reduce the \$3 million operating deficit between the \$10 million in operating cost and \$7 million in total revenue. Prior to the July 1, 2016 amendment, it had been ten years since the last tariff increase for pilotage. Since 2007 the Port Pilot Division has been operating at a deficit and will continue to do so until additional increases can be implemented. The proposed actions will serve to close the shortfall and enable the Harbor Department to offset capital improvement and training costs, deliver more efficient customer service, and establish a more sustainable business model. Prior to 2006, the Harbor Department had primarily adjusted the pilot tariff rate structure to maintain a balanced budget. Despite the proposed increases, the rates for pilotage in the Port of Los Angeles will remain among the lowest on the U.S. West Coast. Staff's goal is to maintain a

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY ORDER - AMENDMENT TO TARIFF NO. 4 – CHARGES FOR PILOTAGE

tariff which will provide competitive rates in San Pedro Bay and balanced financial performance.

Amendment to Tariff No. 4 – The Harbor Department proposes amendments to Port Tariff No. 4 (Tariff) Item No. 330 (b), (d), (e), (f), and (g) regarding Charges for Pilotage (Transmittal 1).

The proposed changes, effective January 1, 2017, would increase the charge for GRT, from \$0.0060 to \$0.0063, the Move Surcharge from \$100 to \$105, and the LOA fee in meters would be increased approximately 25%. All other fees related to Pilotage would also be increased 25%, i.e. pilot cancellation fee, pilot stand-by fee, assistance charge for a second pilot; and the minimum charge pilotage fee.

Pilotage Charges Per Vessel

	AVG SHIP 5,500 TEU	8,500 TEU	10,000 TEU	13,050 TEU
POLA Prior to 7/1/16	\$4,075	\$5,090	\$5,211	\$5,794
POLA Current as of- 7/1/2016	\$4,866	\$6,132	\$6,344	\$7,108
POLA 1/1/17	\$5,884	\$7,388	\$7,611	\$8,500

Changes to Tariff No. 4 (Transmittal 2) require the approval of the Board and City Council. The proposed Temporary Order (Transmittal 3) is required to keep the proposed tariff rules and regulations in place until the Permanent Order and Ordinance are approved by City Council.

Any additional fee modifications will be addressed and returned to the Harbor Commission for review and approval.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT:

The proposed action is to amend the Port of Los Angeles Tariff No. 4 charges for pilotage. As an activity involving modification of a rate, fee, or charge for the use of existing municipal services involving negligible or no expansion of use, the Director of Environmental Management has determined that the proposed action is exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Article III Class 1(31) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

DATE: DECEMBER 7, 2016

PAGE 4 OF 4

SUBJECT: TEMPORARY ORDER - AMENDMENT TO TARIFF NO. 4 – CHARGES FOR PILOTAGE

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Pilotage revenues totaled \$7.1 million and \$7.0 million in FY 14/15 and FY 15/16 (unaudited), respectively. On July 1, 2016 the Board-approved 10 percent overall increase in pilot tariff rates went into effect, which is estimated to net the Port an additional \$700,000 annually. This proposed amendment to Tariff No. 4, Item 330, charges for Pilotage, is expected to increase the Port's pilotage revenues by an additional \$1.9 million annually in total, depending on both the size of future calling vessels and the number of pilot assisted moves. As the previous and this proposed pilot tariff increases addresses operating costs only of the Port Pilot station, capital and other overhead costs associated with the Port Pilot station (estimated at greater than \$2 million annually) is not included in the \$10 million annual operating cost of the pilot station. The proposed adjustment supports the ongoing phased cost recovery efforts which enable the Port's pilot operations to operate within a balanced budget.

CITY ATTORNEY:


The Office of the City Attorney has reviewed and approved the subject temporary order as to form and legality.

TRANSMITTALS:

1. Pilotage Rate Table
2. Tariff No. 4
3. Temporary Order



JOHN L. DWYER
Chief Port Pilot

FIS Approval :  (initials)
CA Approval :  (initials)



THOMAS E. GAZSI
Chief of Public Safety
and Emergency Management

APPROVED:

For 

EUGENE D. SEROKA
Executive Director

TEG/JD/rkg
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