



News Release

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CORP'S ISSUES DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT ON THE BERTH 100 PROJECT

Los Angeles, Calif., --- The Corps of Engineers recently provided the National Resources Defense Council (NRDC) with a final draft supplemental environmental assessment (SEA) on the West Basin Terminal Improvement Project at Berth 100. The purpose of the SEA is to address issues raised by District Judge Margaret Morrow in her order denying a preliminary injunction. The previous permit decision is not under reconsideration.

This supplement currently being prepared to the original environmental assessment (EA), which was not publicly circulated, does not change but simply clarifies or amplifies the original presentation. All comments previously received during the official permit application public comment period remain incorporated in the SEA.

Additions to the original EA strengthen indirect and cumulative impacts analysis by incorporating other documents and information available to the Corps at the time the permit decision was made in April 2002. The information comes from a variety of sources including the Port of Los Angeles' 1997 EIR, the Corps' 2000 Main Channel Deepening EIS/EIR, and various additions to both those documents. No new information not already existing or any new analysis is being incorporated into the SEA.

Since federal law does not require public circulation, and the draft SEA concerns issues that are part of ongoing litigation; the Corps is not publishing the draft SEA at this time and will not seek further public comment or host public hearings on it.

The Corps, however, did post an executive summary regarding the draft SEA along with questions and answers on its district web site. The executive summary and questions with answers will soon be translated into Spanish and also posted to the Corps district web site. The final SEA will be posted on the Web site when it is finished, and a hard copy will be provided for informational purposes to anyone who requests a copy in writing.

This SEA is not related to the West Basin Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for which the Corps will provide a separate public hearing and public comment period when that draft EIS is complete.

For additional information please refer to current district projects on the Web site at

<http://www.spl.usace.army.mil>

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