



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

SPECIAL PUBLIC NOTICE
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING for the China Shipping Line
Berths 97-109 Container Terminal Project (Preparation of a
Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact
Report)

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

Meeting Date: July 10, 2003

Two public scoping meetings for the proposed Port of Los Angeles China Shipping Line Berths 97-109 Container Terminal Project Draft EIS/EIR will be held concurrently at **6:30 PM** on **July 10, 2003**. Identical information will be presented at both meetings. Translation services will be available at both locations.

Locations:

- Wilmington Recreation Center at 325 Neptune Avenue, Wilmington. This meeting to be conducted in Spanish. Members of the public who wish to communicate and listen entirely in Spanish are encouraged to attend this meeting.
- Peck Park Auditorium at 560 N. Western Avenue, San Pedro.

Written comments will be received until **August 1, 2003**. **Written comments should be directed to the Corps of Engineers at the address below.** For location information, see page 4 of this notice and attached maps.

Army Corps of Engineers Project Manager: Joshua L. Burnam (213) 452-3294,
Joshua.L.Burnam@usace.army.mil

Port of Los Angeles Contact: Dr. Ralph Appy (310) 732-3497

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) Los Angeles District, in conjunction with the Los Angeles Harbor Department (Port), is examining the feasibility of waterside, terminal and transportation improvements at Berths 97-109 in the Port of Los Angeles. The Corps is considering the Port's application for a Department of the Army permit under Clean Water Act Section 404 and River and Harbor Act Section 10 to conduct dredge and fill activities and construct two wharves associated with the proposed project. Some of the project elements are completed and others, previously approved by the Corps and the Port, such as the Channel Deepening Project, are presently under construction.

The primary Federal concern is the dredging and discharging of materials within waters of the United States and potential significant impacts on the human environment. Therefore, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Corps is requiring the preparation of an Environmental Impact

Statement (EIS) prior to reaching a permit decision. The Corps may ultimately make a determination to permit or deny the above project, or permit modified versions of the above project.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Port of Los Angeles will serve as Lead Agency for the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for its consideration of development approvals within its jurisdiction. The Corps and the Port of Los Angeles have agreed to jointly prepare a Draft EIS/EIR in order to optimize efficiency and avoid duplication. The Draft EIS/EIR is intended to be sufficient in scope to address both the Federal and the state and local requirements and environmental issues concerning the proposed activities and permit approvals.

Interested parties are hereby notified that a preliminary application has been received for a Department of the Army permit for the activity described herein. Interested parties are invited to provide their views on the scope of the Draft EIS/EIR, which will become a part of the record and will be considered in the development of the EIS/EIR. This EIS/EIR will be used as part of a permit decision pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 403) and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act of 1972 (33 U.S.C. 1344).

Comments should be mailed to:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District
Regulatory Branch
c/o Joshua Burnam
ATTN: CESPL-CO-R-200301029-JLB
P.O. Box 532711
Los Angeles, California 90053-2325

Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: Joshua.L.Burnam@usace.army.mil

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Project Site: The proposed project is located in the northwestern portion of the Port of Los Angeles, adjacent to the San Pedro District of the City of Los Angeles, CA. The proposed project involves dredge and fill operations, new wharf construction, coupled with terminal expansion on adjacent areas of existing and newly created land, and improvement of transportation infrastructure at the China Shipping Line (CSL) Berths 97-109.

Proposed Action: Wharf and backland construction elements include: 1) Construction of the Berth 100 wharf and associated backlands (CSL Phase I), including associated dredging and filling activities, and the placement of piles, rock dike, and construction of concrete wharf deck, 2) Construction of the Berth 102 wharf and development of a marine terminal, including all associated infrastructure and backlands improvements on the Channel Deepening fill (CSL Phase 2), 3) Construction of a 376 linear-foot southern extension of Berth 100 (CSL Phase 2), including the placement of rock dike, piles, and construction of concrete wharf deck, and 4) Realignment of rail and roads to create additional backland acreage. Upon completion of all project elements, there will be 2500 linear-feet of continuous concrete wharf deck at Berths 97-109. In addition, project elements that may arise from the public scoping process will also be evaluated in the EIS/EIR. The proposed terminal development project includes the following elements:

Phase I (2003, reassessment of some completed project elements)

- 1) Discharge of fill in 1.3 acres of waters of the U.S. associated with the construction and operation of a 1,200-foot wharf (134,000 square feet) at Berth 100 (completed).

- 2) Dredging of 41,000 cubic yards (cy) of material along the waterfront at Berths 100-102 to match approved -53 MLLW channel depths, with material to be placed at the Anchorage Road Soil Storage Site (completed).
- 3) Construction of 88,000 cy of rock dike, placement of 14,000 cy of fill behind the dike, and placement of 652 concrete piles and 950 pin-piles at Berth 100 (completed).
- 4) Construction and development of a 75-acre container terminal adjacent to the Berth 100 wharf (35 acres added to the 40 acres that were operating in 2001-2002).
- 5) Construction of a bridge from the Berth 100-102 terminal to the Berth 121-131 terminal to facilitate cargo movement between the terminals.
- 6) Installation of 4 shore-side gantry cranes (each 243-feet tall) at Berth 100.
- 7) Construction of accessory terminal buildings and structures.

Phase II (2005)

- 1) Construction and operation a new 924 linear-foot wharf (114,000 square feet) at Berth 102. Direct impacts to waters of the U.S. associated with the discharge of dredge or fill materials at Berth 102, with the exception of the placement of 560 concrete piles at Berth 102, are associated with the 43-acre landfill in the Southwest Slip that is assessed in the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Channel Deepening Project.
- 2) Discharge of fill in 1.2 acres of waters of the U.S. associated with the construction and operation of a new 376 linear-foot extension (43,000 square feet) at the southern end of the Phase I wharf.
- 3) Construction of 91,000 cy of rock dike and placement of 19,000 cy of fill behind the dike at the Berth 100 extension.
- 4) Placement of 560 concrete piles at Berth 102 and placement of 215 concrete piles at the Berth 100 extension.
- 5) Development of 35 acres of container terminal backlands on the 43-acre sediment disposal area.
- 6) Construction of a second bridge from the Berth 100-102 terminal to the Berth 121-131 terminal to facilitate cargo movement between the terminals.
- 7) Installation of 6 shore-side gantry cranes (each 243-feet tall) at Berth 102.
- 8) Construction of additional accessory terminal buildings and structures.

Phase III (2010) Expansion of backland container storage capacity by an additional 24 acres by realigning Front Street and redeveloping the Catalina Terminal area and the former Todd Shipyard parking lot.

Issues: There are several potential environmental issues that will be addressed in the EIS/EIR. Additional issues may be identified during the scoping process. Issues initially identified as potentially significant include:

- a) Land use and planning impacts;
- b) Geological issues, including dredging and stabilization of fill areas in an area of known seismic activity;
- c) Impacts to water quality;
- d) Potential impacts to marine biological resources and endangered species of birds;
- e) Impacts to air quality;
- f) Impacts to traffic, including marine navigation and ground transportation;
- g) Potential for noise impacts;
- h) Impacts to public utilities and services;
- i) Potential impacts to aesthetic resources, including cranes, light and glare;
- j) Potential impacts on public health and safety;
- k) Potential impacts to recreation;
- l) Cumulative impacts.

Alternatives. Alternatives initially being considered for the proposed improvement project include the following:

- a) Alternate location(s) for the terminal improvements
- b) Non-containerized use of terminal (lumber, autos)
- c) Non-shipping use- park, cruise terminal, commercial development, empty container storage
- d) No Federal action (Construction and operation of only backlands developments at Phases II and III).
- e) Larger facility (consolidation of joint facilities).

Scoping Process. The Corps and the Port will jointly conduct two public scoping meetings on July 10, 2003 at 6:30 P.M., to receive public comment and assess public concerns regarding the appropriate scope and preparation of the Draft EIS/EIR. Meetings will be held at:

**Peck Park Auditorium
560 N. Western Ave.
San Pedro, CA 90732**

The courtesy Spanish language meeting will be held at:

**Wilmington Recreation Center
325 Neptune Ave.
Wilmington, CA 90744**

Parties interested in being added to the Corps' electronic mail notification list for the Port of Los Angeles can register at: www.spl.usace.army.mil/regulatory/register.html. This list will be used in the future to notify the public about scheduled hearings and availability of future public notices. Participation in the public meeting by federal, state and local agencies and other interested organizations and persons are encouraged. Written comments will be received until **August 1, 2003**. Alternatively, comments can be sent electronically to: Joshua.L.Burnam@usace.army.mil until August 1, 2003.

These hearings are intended to provide the Corps and the Port with information the public feels is necessary to establish the appropriate scope for preparing the environmental analysis in the proposed future EIS/EIR. The Corps and the Port are not yet requesting public input on the merits or detriments of the overall proposal, nor advice on whether or not to approve or deny the proposal. There will be future opportunity to provide these types of comments during the permit review process.

During the public hearings, anyone wishing to make a statement will be allocated a certain amount of time to provide information on the proposed project. The amount of time each person is allowed will be directly dependent on the number of people who sign up to speak at the public hearing. We preliminarily estimate that individuals will be given 3 minutes to provide their comments verbally. We would like to encourage interest groups to designate an official spokesperson to present the group's views. We plan to allocate a larger amount of time to official representatives of such groups. Groups wishing to designate an official representative must notify the Corps in writing prior to, but not later than, Monday, July 7, 2003. The determination of this extended speaking time will be based on the number of responses received by the Corps.

Availability of the Draft EIS/EIR. The joint lead agencies expect the Draft EIS/EIR to be made available to the public in November 2003. A public hearing will be held during the public comment period for the Draft EIS/EIR.