



## Interoffice Memo

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**DATE:** October 8, 2021

**TO:** Kirk DeJesus, Port Director

**FROM:** Jeff Wingfield, Director Environmental and Public Affairs

**RE:** Consideration of possible contract award for project:  
**Dock 14 Through 18 Maintenance Dredging Project**

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### **REQUESTED ACTION**

- A. Adoption of a California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Categorical Exemption pursuant to Section 15304(g).
- B. Authorize the Port Director to award a sole source contract to Ross Island Sand and Gravel Company (Ross Island) in an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000.00

### **PRIOR COMMISSION ACTIONS**

In recent years the Port's Board of Port Commissioners has authorized the Port Director to enter into a sole source contract with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) dredging contractor based on significant savings of public funds realized. The Port can eliminate paying mobilization costs (approximately \$700,000.00) by using the Corps' contractor since their equipment will be at, or near, the Port facilities due to the Corps' contract.

### **DESCRIPTION OF PROJECT**

In June 2018, the Port received a 5-year dredging permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for maintenance dredging of all Port docks. The traditional dredging window is August 1 through November 30. When the Port applied for this dredging permit, we provided evidence to support a longer dredging window beginning July 1 through November 30. This longer dredging window was approved. This longer window allows the Port to potentially use the Corps' dredging contractor prior to the dredging window for the Stockton Deep Water Ship Channel rather than waiting until the end of the season when the contractor has completed the maintenance dredging of the Channel. This provides an increased level of certainty for completing needed dock dredging. However, in 2021, the Corps didn't complete its contractor bid and selection process in time to use the Corps contractor prior to the annual Channel maintenance dredging activities.

Typically, the Corps' dredging bid process required a single dredging contractor to bid on both the Stockton and Sacramento channels. But, in 2021, the Corps' decided to award two separate contracts; one for each channel. The Corps awarded a one-year O&M dredging contract to Ross Island in July 2021 for the Sacramento Channel. For the Stockton Channel, the Corps awarded a one-year O&M dredging contract to Pacific Dredging Company.

The dredging window on the Sacramento Channel ends on October 31, 2021 due to fishery concerns. Therefore, Ross Island would have one month to dredge Port docks if it was to receive the Port's Dock 14 through 18 Maintenance Dredging Project. Pacific Dredging Company isn't scheduled to complete the Stockton Channel dredging project until mid to late November. Therefore, Pacific Dredging Company would not have adequate time to complete the Port's project.

The 2021 maintenance dredging project consists of removing accumulated sediment from Docks 14 through 18 at the Port's West Complex. The exact quantity to be removed will be based on pre-dredge surveys conducted immediately prior to the dredging effort. The goal of this project is to restore Port docks to -35 feet mean lower low water (MLLW) plus two feet of allowable overdepth which consists of approximately 60,000 cubic yards (CY) of sediment. Dredging would be completed during the authorized dredging window (July 1 – November 30) and would end on or before November 30 pursuant to permit conditions.

### **BENEFIT TO THE PORT**

This project will bring the West Complex dock facilities to their authorized operating depth of -35 feet MLLW and allow for efficient loading/unloading and movement of vessels.

### **LOCATION**

The project location is adjacent to Docks 14 through 18 on the Port's West Complex extending to the federal ship channel.

### **PROJECT COMPLETION TIME**

The Board of Port Commissioners for the Stockton Port District is scheduled to consider the contract award for this project at their October 18, 2021 meeting. If authorization is given, the project shall be completed by November 30, 2021.

### **COST/FINANCING**

The cost to complete the dredging project will be an amount not to exceed \$1,100,000.00. The Port budgeted and the Port Board of Commissioners approved \$1,100,000.00 for dredging activities for FY2021/22. The project will be paid out of the Port's general funds.

By using the Corps' contractor, the Port saves mobilization and demobilization costs which are approximately \$700,000.00. Additionally, given that Pacific Dredging Company will still be dredging the Stockton Channel into November, they would not have adequate time to start and/or complete the Port's dock dredging project. Further, the last time the Port conducted a formal bid process (2018), the Port only received one bid – from Ross Island. One reason for this is that the Port's placement sites are set up to receive dredging material via hydraulic dredge, rather than mechanical dredge (i.e. Dutra), and there are a limited number of hydraulic dredge companies in the area.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This project is exempt from CEQA pursuant to Section 15304(g). This activity is covered by the Minor Alterations to Land exemption which applies to maintenance dredging where the dredged material is deposited in an authorized placement site.