



## INTEROFFICE MEMO

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**DATE:** January 17, 2023

**TO:** Kirk DeJesus, Port Director

**FROM:** Jeff Wingfield, Deputy Port Director, Regulatory & Public Affairs  
Jason Cashman, Environmental & Regulatory Affairs Manager

**RE:** Port of Stockton CEQA/NEPA Consultant Agreement

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### **REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the Port Director to enter into a contract with Anchor QEA to perform regulatory permitting and NEPA/CEQA consulting for a total amount not-to-exceed \$650,000.00 through December 31, 2023.

### **OVERVIEW AND HISTORY OF THE ANCHOR'S WORK WITH THE PORT**

Anchor QEA is an environmental and engineering consulting firm that specializes in aquatic, shoreline, dredging/sediment management, water resource, permitting, and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance projects. Anchor QEA has worked closely with the Port for several years and together we have successfully reached many goals. Anchor QEA has consistently completed tasks for the Port under budget and in a timely manner.

The Port contracts with Anchor QEA to secure complex regulatory permits such as dredging permits, wetland permits, and permitting for new dredge placement sites. Anchor QEA has always obtained the required permits in a timely manner and with little questions from the permitting agencies. It is clear that the agencies trust and respect the work performed by Anchor QEA, which makes permitting processes smooth, streamlined, and predicable. In the past, the Port has used other firms for many of these permit applications. These firms were able to complete the permitting processes, but over longer periods of time and at higher cost to the Port. Due to Anchor QEA's vast experience, they are able to complete tasks in an efficient and cost-effective manner. Currently, Anchor QEA is working with the Port on the following permitting efforts:

- a. McDonald Island Dredged Material Placement Site Final Initial Study/ Mitigated Negative Declarations/Environmental Assessment (ISMND/EA) for which USACE is the NEPA lead agency
- b. Final NEPA Environmental Assessment for the Rail Bridge Replacement and Rail Improvements Project for which USCG is the NEPA lead agency
- c. NEPA Environmental Assessment for the Rail Rehabilitation and Upgrade Project for which MARAD is the NEPA lead agency
- d. Preparation of CEQA documents including:
  1. Venice Island Dredged Material Placement Site IS/MND
  2. Docks 2 through 7 Repairs CEQA Exemption
  3. Dock Maintenance Dredging Program CEQA Exemption
  4. Dock Infrastructure Maintenance Program CEQA Exemption
  5. West Complex Laydown Areas CEQA Addendum
  6. CEQA document for a Port-led mitigation site (to be further defined in 2023)

**SCOPE OF WORK**

Prepare CEQA and NEPA Documentation for Port Projects	\$250,000.00
Prepare Regulatory Permit Application for Federal and State Agencies	\$210,000.00
Continue support for the Simmons Island Habitat Restoration Project	\$50,000.00
Port Maintenance Dredging Support Program	\$15,000.00
Port Mitigation Concept Development and Permitting Support	\$50,000.00
USACE Operations and Maintenance Dredging-related Support	\$20,000.00
Grant Application Support	\$15,000.00
Dredge Operations Plan Update	\$10,000.00
Port Public Outreach Support	\$15,000.00
Ongoing Strategic/Regulatory Support	\$15,000.00

**COST**

The cost of the NEPA/CEQA consulting effort through end of calendar year 2023 (December 2023) is anticipated to be a not-to-exceed cost of \$650,000.00.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Port staff recommends that the Port Board of Commissioners authorize the Port Director to enter into a new contract with Anchor for a not-to-exceed amount of \$650,000 through December 2023. This will enable staff to continue to work in an efficient and cost effective manner with the regulatory agencies and meet all NEPA/CEQA requirements in a timely manner.