



## INTEROFFICE MEMO

---

**DATE:** September 18, 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/Permitting Consultant Agreement

---

### **REQUESTED ACTION**

Authorize the Port Director to amend the contract (increase by \$125,000.00) with Anchor QEA to perform regulatory permitting and NEPA/CEQA consulting for a revised total amount not-to-exceed \$775,000.00 through December 31, 2023 (original contract amount is \$650,000.00).

### **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.

## **SCOPE OF WORK**

The Port entered into a consulting agreement with Anchor in January 2023. The contract was for \$650,000 with a duration through December 31, 2023. Since that time, Anchor has assisted with unforeseen out of scope items listed below.

- *Preparing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documentation for the Rail Hardening Project, including an Environmental Assessment, National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 documentation, and Endangered Species Act documentation for the U.S. Maritime Administration's (MARAD's) review and processing. NEPA compliance is required by MARAD for accepting PIDP grant funds.*
- *Conducting planning efforts for a wetland preservation site on Spud Island to be used as future mitigation for Port projects.*
- *Conducting cultural resources surveys on the West Complex as mitigation for the rail bridge replacement project.*
- *Coordinating with Port staff on 2023 emergency dredging needed in the Stockton deep water ship channel and sediment trap.*
- *Conducting weekly water quality monitoring throughout the USACE's maintenance dredging of the Stockton deep water ship channel and sediment trap because USACE was unable to secure a water quality contractor in time to support the dredging efforts. Sampling began in July 2023 and is expected to continue into October. Port expects to be reimbursed for this expense from the USACE.*
- *Preparing and submitting permit applications and preparing a CEQA exemption for the Port's multi-year dock maintenance dredging program, including Dock 8. Permits are expected to be required in summer 2024.*
- *Preparing a sampling and analysis plan for sediment sampling to support the Port's multi-year dock maintenance dredging program and coordination with the RWQCB. Sediment sampling would occur in early 2024.*
- *Preparing a wetland delineation for wetlands on Spud Island.*

## **COST**

There were sufficient funds to complete the original scope approved at January 17, 2023 Board meeting, but additional funds will be needed to continue providing the Port with support for both the in-scope work and the additional scope that is identified above. An additional \$125,000 (for a total contract value of \$775,000 for 2023) is requested to provide the Port with support on the items listed above and the original in-scope items through December 31, 2023.

**STAFF RECOMMENDATION**

Port staff recommends that the Board of Port Commissioners authorize the Port Director to amend the contract with Anchor for a not-to-exceed amount of \$775,000.00 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.