



NOTICE OF PROJECT AND PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT PURSUANT TO NEPA

National City Marine Terminal Electrical and Shore Power Infrastructure Upgrade Project

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Maritime Administration (MARAD) awarded funds to the San Diego Unified Port District (Port District) under the Port Infrastructure Development Program (PIDP) for electrical and shore power infrastructure updates and repairs to Berths 24-3 and 24-4 in the National City Marine Terminal (NCMT) in National City, California. Because the Proposed Action, described below, would be partially funded under the DOT's PIDP, it is therefore a federal action subject to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (United States Code [USC] Title 42 Section 4323 et seq.).

Proposed Action/Project Description

The Port District is proposing to implement structural repairs at Berths 24-3 and 24-4 at the NCMT to maintain operational integrity, extend service life of the berths, and help return them to full operational capacity. More specifically, the structure repairs would include: improvements to the stormwater system, utilities, piles, deck, and fender system and expansion joints. The Proposed Action would also involve installation of a shore power outlet at Berth 24-4 and a new San Diego Gas & Electric substation with new 12kV service connection at the entry gate to NCMT; as well as upgrades to NCMT and NCMT warehouse lighting to improve energy efficiency and safety; and using technology/logistics software to optimize the efficiency of cargo movement within NCMT. The location of the Proposed Action is entirely paved and contains existing industrial infrastructure development.

The Proposed Action would support local and regional efforts to improve trade facilities that achieve regional environmental, public health, transportation, and economic objectives by regaining operational efficiency and increasing the San Diego Region's supply chain cargo capacity. The rehabilitation of Berths 24-3 and 24-4 would address a primary safety need on the terminal while also enhancing the region's, state's, and country's multimodal freight transportation system by improving operational capability to handle additional ocean-going vessels that transport containers and roll-on/roll-off (RO-RO) cargo, and the domestic movement of Jones Act, U.S. flag impelled and military cargo. Berth 24-3 is currently considered such a significant safety hazard that portions of the berth are blocked off and restricted from access or transit by any vehicles. Berth 24-3 is only used to secure vessels alongside, but cargo operations are restricted in the area.

Traditional vessel operations alongside the operational berth require that the auxiliary engines remain running to power onboard hotel and operational services, which releases air emissions into the surrounding air basin. Connecting to grid-based electricity allows vessels to shut down onboard auxiliary engines and power onboard cargo handling and hotel operations with grid-based electricity and eliminates nitrogen oxide (NOx) and diesel particulate matter (DPM) emissions for the duration of time the vessel is docked at berth. Plugging into grid-based power improves the safety and air quality of the air basin, the surrounding community, and on the terminal, improving workplace safety and working conditions for employees.

NEPA Process

The Port District is assisting MARAD with the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to NEPA, to analyze and disclose the potential impacts of the Proposed Action, and reasonable alternatives on the natural and human environment. Pursuant to NEPA, MARAD serves as the Lead Agency for the preparation of the EA, which has been prepared consistent with the following:

- United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) "Procedures for Considering Environmental Impacts"
- NEPA of 1969, as amended (United States Code [USC] Title 42 Section 4323 et seq.)

Questions

Questions on the Proposed Action or Project can be directed to Anna Buzaitis in the Port District's Planning Department, at (619) 686-7263 or abuzaiti@portofsandiego.org.