



News Release

Board Approves Rail Facility Project

Pier B project would enhance train assembly and shift more cargo from trucks

Jan. 23, 2018

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners on Monday approved the Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Facility, greenlighting a project within the Harbor District that will move cargo faster, with fewer environmental impacts.

The next steps include the Board's consideration of a baseline budget for the project after preliminary designs are completed over the coming months.

"This project is vital to our ability to stay competitive and will minimize truck trips generated by anticipated cargo growth," said Harbor Commission President Lou Anne Bynum. "Moving more cargo by rail to and from the Port reduces air pollution and makes operations more efficient."

"The Clean Air Action Plan calls for increased use of on-dock rail, and we have a goal of raising our on-dock volumes to at least 35 percent of our shipments," Port of Long Beach Executive Director Mario Cordero said. "It's crucial that we build this facility to hit these environmental and business goals."

The proposed development would shift more cargo to "on-dock rail," which places containers directly on trains at marine terminals. Currently, the ability to build long trains is limited due to the lack of adequate yard tracks and the configuration of mainline tracks. On-dock rail usage in the Port was 24 percent in 2017.

The Pier B facility would change this by providing track space to join together sections of trains assembled at terminals. No cargo trucks would visit the facility, enhancing the environmental benefits of pushing more cargo to rail transportation. A one-mile-long train can take as many as 750 trucks off the roadways. Additionally, the rail facility would be operated by Pacific Harbor Line, a switching railroad that has converted its fleet to clean-diesel locomotives that reduce air pollution and save fuel. [View a video about the project here.](#)

Throughout last year, the Port conducted extensive outreach on the project's Environmental Impact Report. The study analyzes the environmental impacts of the planned project, and the mitigation measures that would be used to address those impacts. The draft EIR was released Dec. 15, 2016. Port staff held a series of public meetings and solicited comments from stakeholders to revise the report.

The Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Facility would be located southwest of Anaheim Street and Interstate 710.



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