

 **THE PORT OF
LONG BEACH** NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION * 925 HARBOR PLAZA * P.O. BOX 570 * LONG BEACH CA 90801

**HARBOR COMMISSION RESCINDS PIER J EIR
Staff Directed to Re-Evaluate Environmental Study**

Sept. 29, 2004

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners voted unanimously at a special meeting Wednesday morning, Sept. 29, to rescind its certification of the environmental impact report for a Pier J expansion project.

The five-member Port of Long Beach governing board directed the Port staff to fully reevaluate the environmental study, after identifying additional issues while preparing to respond to an appeal made by environmental groups to the Long Beach City Council.

“In preparing for the appeal, new issues came to light that we felt warrant further evaluation,” said Port Executive Director Richard D. Steinke.

“What is happening is the way the process is supposed to work. Comments by the City Council, public and other agencies are being taken into account to produce a better document. Rescinding the certification will give the board and staff the opportunity to fully re-examine the environmental document.”

The Harbor Commission had certified the EIR on Aug. 2, clearing the way for a Port project that would add 115 acres over approximately the next decade to Pacific Container Terminal. The 270-acre facility is jointly operated by SSA Marine and China Ocean Shipping Co. The proposed landfill project would create a more efficient, rectangular terminal. The current Pier J facility was originally operated as two separate terminals.

After the commission’s certification, several environmental groups had challenged the adequacy of the Port’s environmental analysis, appealing the certification of the EIR to the Long Beach City Council.

Contact: Art Wong, Port of Long Beach Media Relations Manager, (562) 590-4123 or wong@polb.com