

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE July 31, 2007

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L.A. AREA CHAMBER STATEMENT ON THE TRAPAC CONTAINER TERMINAL PROJECT

The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce supports green growth at our region's ports in order to meet increasing cargo demand and protect the environment in our local communities. The Berth 136-147 [TraPac] Container Terminal project at the Port of Los Angeles is a promising potential solution to efficiently manage expected growth while mitigating environmental impacts. The Chamber applauds the Port of Los Angeles and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for producing the Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (DEIS/EIR) which will serve as the basis for public dialogue and, with subsequent revisions, provide a final project assessment as part of the approval process for this project of economic and environmental importance.

The Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are facing a major capacity crisis. Already handling over 210 million tons of cargo each year, intermodal demand is expected to exceed capacity as early as 2010. A capacity shortfall will not only result in economic losses for our region, but will significantly limit the number of new jobs that would be created to build and maintain expanded port operations. As a result, port capacity must be expanded in order to meet trade demands and deliver new opportunities for jobs in our region.

The TraPac project will expand and modernize existing terminal facilities to accommodate expected growth; provide new and efficient on dock-rail capabilities that allow for the direct transfer of cargo between ships and rail yards; utilize energy-efficient buildings and cargo handling equipment; and provide a 30-acre buffer zone of green space for community members living near the port. This green growth strategy meets the goals of the Port's Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP) and, by 2015, is expected to reduce emissions of key criteria pollutants (NOx, SOx and Particulate Matter) at the TraPac terminal to levels that are below present emissions at that terminal, according to data in the DEIS/EIR.

The L.A. Area Chamber believes that the TraPac project provides an unprecedented opportunity to move forward with a green growth plan that balances port growth with environmental concerns. The Chamber encourages the Port of Los Angeles, community stakeholders and the business community to continue moving the environmental process forward to completion to ensure that the project meets environmental goals.

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The Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce represents the interests of business in L.A. County. Founded in 1888, the Chamber promotes a prosperous economy and quality of life in the Los Angeles region. For more information, visit www.lachamber.org.