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Wilmington, CA 90744
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March 14, 2007

Dr. Robert Kanter
Managing Director of Environmental Management and Planning
Port of Long Beach
925 Harbor Plaza
Long Beach, CA 90802

Re: Pier S Project EIR, Notice of Preparation

Dear Dr. Kanter:

Congratulations on bringing forth a much-needed infrastructure project at the Port of Long Beach. It is very exciting to see this long-awaited project come forward as evidence that the Port is making strides to improve goods movement productivity, navigational safety, and air quality by reducing emissions. The Port is off to an excellent start in meeting these goals with the Pier S project. The Pier S project will serve the community in many ways, including job creation and overall economic output combined with a major advancement in emissions reductions.

FuturePorts, a non-profit membership organization and regional voice, represents a spectrum of business and industry serving the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles (Ports). We support your vigorous and integrated approach to fulfilling both economic as well as environmental demands in your project proposal.

The Ports, along with the southern California regional transportation planners, desperately need to advance quickly on both congestion and emissions reduction fronts in a synchronistic manner. We encourage both the Port of Long Beach and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to foster a broad collaboration on the Pier S proposal, as well as on other upcoming projects, among your Port supporters and the multiple agencies with jurisdiction over land and water use affected by the Pier S project.

If the environmental review process takes so long that it is wait years for the review to be completed, we will not be able to benefit from the positive gains of the project more rapidly. Therefore, we believe the time is now to affix processes around the facilitation of the environmental review of Pier S to expedite the process. In order to build consensus, we recommend you consider establishing a Task Force of agencies and stakeholders and agree on a Memorandum of Understanding or Agreement around specific tasks and time frame for completion.

We are impressed with the actions accomplished on this project thus far. FuturePorts stands ready to assist you in outreach during the environmental review process and looks forward to seeing a certified EIR/EIS soon.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Warren
Executive Director

Cc: FuturePorts Board of Directors