



LOS ANGELES
CONSERVANCY



Port of Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners

August 8, 2013

Testimony of Linda Dishman

**RE: Certification of Final Program Environmental Impact Report and Adoption of
Port Master Plan Update**

Good morning.

President Miscikowski, members of the Harbor Commission and staff: my name is Linda Dishman, and I am the Executive Director of the Los Angeles Conservancy.

The Conservancy has been active in preservation issues at the Port for the last seven years. Since we have sometimes been in opposition to proposals from the Port, we are especially pleased to find common ground today and be here in support of the Port Master Plan Update as amended by staff this morning.

For the past year, the Conservancy and the National Trust for Historic Preservation have been working very closely with Port staff to address a number of issues with the Port Master Plan Update.

These concerns—specifically what we've seen as a variety of potential adverse impacts to historic buildings—were raised initially through the Port's Terminal Island Land Use Plan.

We have made much progress in the months of meetings and talking through alternatives. I want to fully acknowledge and thank the Port staff for working so closely with us on this—and especially thank Geraldine Knatz for taking our concerns so seriously. Her leadership has really made a difference. There has been significant give and take on both sides.

As you heard from staff, the Port Master Plan Update has been revised to address many of our concerns. For instance, the inclusion of preservation as one of the five goals in the Plan has been strengthened to make it equal with the other goals. And

what remains of the Japanese-American Commercial Village in Fish Harbor is now identified as a historic resource within the plan.

We know that every concern will not be solved within the Port Master Plan Update. We expect to address issues like Canner's Steam and the Yacht Club fill project in subsequent CEQA processes.

However, we have had concerns about Fish Harbor, its singular designated land use of Commercial Fishing, and the associated impacts to the historic cannery buildings and the Japanese-American Commercial Village there.

We are very pleased that Port staff has agreed to a mixed land-use designation for Fish Harbor, allowing for both Commercial Fishing and Maritime Support. This is consistent with other mixed-used districts within the plan. This does not diminish the priority for Commercial Fishing at the Port, however it provides a level of flexibility if fishing cannot be fully achieved at this location.

The Los Angeles Conservancy has worked hard to be pragmatic and to prioritize the issues in our discussions on the Port Master Plan Update. We really appreciate that Geraldine Knatz and the Port staff have listened and have made some significant changes to the plan. We hope that you will agree that the historic buildings of Terminal Island are important and should be given a chance to be part of the future of the Port. We respectfully ask that you support staff in adding Maritime Use to Fish Harbor in the Port Master Plan Update.

Thank you.