



Port Master Plan Update / Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners

Adrian Scott Fine, Director of Advocacy, Los Angeles Conservancy

Thursday, April 4, 2013

In our years-long efforts to work with the Port to recognize and protect historic and cultural resources – notably at Terminal Island – we have been working closer with Port staff in the last year on the Master Plan Update, which we greatly appreciate and want to acknowledge. However, our concerns remain as the Master Plan Update does not provide a path forward for preservation and adaptive reuse of historic buildings, in terms of flexibility and expanded uses.

There are a number of outstanding issues. The biggest of these are the direct impacts associated with 1) leaving off and omitting some historic and cultural resources from the Plan; and 2) not acknowledging or studying the impacts to historic and cultural resources that occur with the proposed land use designations.

These actions severely and unduly limit the ability to allow for preservation to occur in the future, which would then require amendments and action by the California Coastal Commission. Because this is not acknowledged as a significant impact and preservation alternatives are not provided – for instance, as alternative land use designations, overlay zones, or the Port’s hatching – the Conservancy has consulted with our attorney and believe the Port’s Draft Program Environmental Impact Report is inadequate and represents a flawed process.

What we have been and are presently asking for is a level playing field, recognizing the historic and cultural resources that currently exist and providing land use designations that allow for some level of flexibility and expanded uses.

The Conservancy has raised these issues with staff but is not yet seeing this in the form of the Plan. We truly do not want to oppose this initiative and would like to work together. We believe there is still time to make changes to the Plan without resulting in significant delays in the process.

The Conservancy is asking the Commissioners today to help us all find a way to come together to resolve these issues. We believe we have made some progress and acknowledge that the Port has done right by preservation elsewhere, and the draft historic preservation policy is a step in the right direction. However, we need to address the outstanding issues before moving forward on the Port’s Master Plan Update.