



June 2, 2023

San Diego Unified Port District
Attn: Scott Vurbeff: Development Services Department
3165 Pacific Highway, San Diego, CA 92101-1128

Re: NASSCO Floating Dry Dock Replacement and Waterfront Improvement Project EIR Comments

Dear Mr. Vurbeff,

The San Diego County Air Pollution Control District (APCD) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the NASSCO Floating Dry Dock Replacement and Waterfront Improvement Project. General comments contained in this letter are for information/education of APCD rules and requirements and do not require a response. The APCD requests a response when specific comments are made that reference a section of the CEQA document.

General Information About the APCD

The APCD is mandated under federal and state law to regulate air pollutant emissions and improve air quality to protect public health and the environment. Accordingly, the APCD operates countywide air quality permitting, monitoring, and enforcement programs to ensure compliance with applicable air pollution regulations for healthful air quality. The APCD's jurisdiction covers all of San Diego County, including both the incorporated and unincorporated areas.

Project Description as Understood by the APCD

The NASSCO Floating Dry Dock Replacement and Waterfront Improvement Project (project) consists of the removal and replacement of the existing floating dry dock and supporting infrastructure, improvements to the Repair Complex Wharf, repairs to the quay wall and revetments along identified stretches of shoreline, and as needed structural repair or replacement of selected piles throughout the project site. Notably, the project description indicates that there would be no increase in operational capacity following completion of the proposed project. With the change in dimensions of the dry dock and repair and expansion of the Repair Complex Wharf, there is the potential that operations could increase (a concept known as debottlenecking) resulting in the potential for increased air contaminant emissions from facility operations. The EIR should clearly indicate how this will not occur. If it cannot be demonstrated that an increase in operational capacity and associated air contaminant emissions would not occur, then an application for Authority to Construct would need to be filed with the APCD for the dry dock replacement.

Previous Comment Letter Submitted

The APCD would like to acknowledge our previous comment letter submitted on 5/31/22 in response to the same project during a previous environmental review. The letter is referenced on our website at this location: <https://www.sdapcd.org/content/dam/sdapcd/documents/grants/planning/ceqa->



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[comment-letters-2022/APCD_NASSCO_Dry_Dock5-31-22.pdf](#) The letter contained specific comments on emissions estimates and the Health Risk Assessment conducted.

To aid lead agencies of projects, the APCD has published methods and procedures for calculating emissions, conducting air dispersion modeling and conducting health risk assessments at this location: <https://www.sdapcd.org/content/sdapcd/planning/ceqa.html>. In addition, the APCD has emission

calculation methods for welding and other construction activities on its website at:

<https://www.sdapcd.org/content/sdapcd/permits/toxics-emissions/calculation-procedures.html>.

Specific Comment about the Health Risk Assessment (HRA)

It is unclear what the results of the HRA are, as the results presented in the Environmental Checklist (DEIR Appendices) are different than those presented in the report (DEIR Volume 1). The Environmental Checklist (section 4.3.3(c), page 4-29 to -30) state the max residential cancer risk is 11.7 in one million prior to implementing the mitigation measure MM-AQ-1 (having 75% of the engines meet Tier 4 Final standards), and once that measure was implemented, the residential cancer risk would be 8.9 in one million. However, in the report (section 3.1.4.3, Threshold 3, and Table 3.1-11), states the residential cancer risk to be 7.98 in one million before MM-AQ-1 (having 75% of the engines meet Tier 4 Final standards), and once MM-AQ-1 is implemented, the risk would be lower. It should be clarified which risk numbers are the accurate results.

General Information About Asbestos

Asbestos is a known human carcinogen, and the primary route of exposure is through inhalation of asbestos fibers. More information on the health effects of asbestos may be found at

www.epa.gov/asbestos. As such, APCD Rule 1206

(<https://www.sdapcd.org/content/dam/sdapcd/documents/rules/current-rules/Rule-1206.pdf>)

incorporates the requirements of the federal asbestos requirements found in National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) and includes additional requirements to minimize exposure to asbestos fibers.

APCD Rule 1206 requires a facility survey for certain projects to determine if asbestos is present prior to commencement of renovation or demolition. Persons conducting facility surveys shall have taken and passed a current EPA-approved Building Inspector Course. The asbestos content shall be analyzed by a laboratory certified by the National Voluntary Laboratory Accreditation Program (NVLAP).

If more than 100 square feet of asbestos containing materials will be disturbed or a demolition will occur a notification must be submitted to the APCD and procedures for asbestos emission control and waste handling and disposal must be in compliance with APCD Rule 1206.

Specific Comment About Asbestos

On page 3.1-29 in the section titled, "Asbestos-Containing Materials" it refers to the requirements stated from the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) regulations as listed in the Code of Federal Regulations. However, the APCD adopted a local asbestos rule on 11/15/17 which is applicable for these activities in San Diego County (Rule 1206 mentioned above). Demolition



activities associated with this project are likely to be subject to APCD Rule 1206 and as such these activities must be conducted in accordance with the requirements of the rule.

Specific Comment on Threshold 1- Impact Discussion

On page 3.1-30 in the section titled, "Impact Discussion" it states that the APCD 2022 Regional Air Quality Strategy (RAQS) are currently in draft form. For clarification, as of March 9, 2023, the APCD Governing Board has approved and adopted the 2022 RAQS and it has been submitted to the California Air Resources Board for consideration.

Specific Comments on Table 3.1-8 Maritime Clean Air Strategy Analysis

On page 3.1-33 in the table sections for "Long-Term Goal for Trucks, and Long-Term Goal for Cargo Handling Equipment" it states that these goals are not applicable. The APCD strongly recommends implementation of zero emission equipment wherever feasible and use of diesel equipment meeting Tier 4 standards whenever zero emission equipment is not feasible to minimize emissions from project activities to the maximum extent practicable.

Specific Comments on Table 3.1-9 Community Emissions Reduction Plan (CERP) Analysis

On page 3.1-44 in the table under Goal 2 it states that the CERP goal of medium and heavy-duty trucks servicing the Portside Community to be 100% zero emission vehicles prior to CARB requirements as not applicable. The APCD strongly recommends implementation of zero emission vehicles wherever feasible and the use of cleanest available combustion vehicles whenever zero emission vehicles are not feasible to minimize emissions from project activities to the maximum extent practicable.

Specific Comment on Threshold 2- Construction Emissions

On page 3.1-49 in the construction emissions section, it states the project applicant would ensure at least 75 percent of off-road diesel construction equipment would meet Tier 4 final emission standards. The APCD strongly recommends implementation of zero emission equipment wherever feasible and the use of cleanest available combustion off-road equipment whenever zero emission equipment is not feasible to minimize emissions from project activities to the maximum extent practicable.

Specific Comment on Threshold 3- Construction

On page 3.1-52 in the construction discussion, it states the project applicant would ensure at least 75 percent of off-road diesel construction equipment would meet Tier 4 final emission standards. The APCD strongly recommends implementation of zero emission equipment wherever feasible and the use of equipment meeting Tier 4 final emission standards whenever zero emission vehicles are not feasible to minimize emissions from project activities to the maximum extent practicable.

Specific Comment on Threshold 3- Asbestos-Containing Materials

On page 3.1-54 in the discussion of structures built prior to 1977, it states the project does not propose to demolish any structures built prior to 1977. District Asbestos Rule 1206 does not make any applicability distinction of the requirements of the Rule based on the age of the building being disturbed. Therefore, if more than 100 square feet of asbestos containing materials will be disturbed or



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a demolition will occur a notification must be submitted to the APCD and procedures for asbestos emission control and waste handling and disposal must be in compliance with APCD Rule 1206.

Should you have any questions about these comments or APCD requirements please contact Supervising Air Resources Specialist, Eric Luther (858) 586-2893 or eric.luther@sdapcd.org .

Sincerely,

Eric Luther

Eric Luther

Supervising Air Resources Specialist