June 5, 2016

Chris Cannon  Theresa Stevens, Ph.D.
Director, Environmental Management  Los Angeles District, Regulatory Division
Port of Los Angeles  U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 151  2151 Alessandro Dr., Ste. 110
San Pedro, CA 90733  Ventura, CA 93001

RE: Draft EIS/EIR - Berths 226-236 [Everport] Container Terminal Improvements Project

Dear Mr. Cannon and Dr. Stevens:

On behalf of the Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, I am writing to support the Everport Container Terminal Improvements Project at the Port of Los Angeles (POLA).

This project will serve to optimize the container-handling efficiency and capacity of POLA to accommodate the projected fleet mix of larger container vessels that are anticipated to call at the Everport Container Terminal through the next two decades. Due to increased demands for goods, larger vessels are being deployed to reduce container shipping costs. As industry trends shift, continual modernization of our port infrastructure is essential.

By optimizing the use of existing land, dredging for sufficient depth, adding new cranes and raising existing ones, and increasing efficiency for container handling, the Everport Terminal improvements will ensure we are poised to compete for the benefit of our regional economy. The project will also create good jobs- both during the project and in the staffing of the modernized terminal.

With the goods movement sector contributing to nearly one-third of the regional economy, efficient transportation of cargo through our ports is vital to maintaining a thriving economy. For these reasons, the LA Chamber supports the Everport Container Terminal Improvements Project.

Sincerely,

Gary Toebben
President & CEO