

October 3, 2023



## PORT OF OAKLAND

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY for the  
OAKLAND HARBOR TURNING BASINS WIDENING PROJECT  
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT (Draft EIR)  
(State Clearinghouse No. 2022050647)**

and

**NOTICE OF THREE (3) PUBLIC MEETINGS**

**In-Person Open House and Meeting**

**Wednesday, October 25, 2023 from 5:00 to 7:30 PM  
Program starts at 6 PM**

**55 Harrison Street, Oakland, California 94607**

**Virtual Meetings**

**Monday, November 6, 2023 from 6:00 to 7:30 PM**

**Tuesday, November 7, 2023 from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM**

**Project Title:** Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Project

**Project Sponsor:** Port of Oakland (Port)

**Project Location:** Oakland Seaport; submerged lands in the Outer and Inner Harbor Turning Basins and adjacent drylands in the cities of Oakland and Alameda (see Figure 1 for additional detail).

**Background:** The Oakland Seaport encompasses approximately 1,800 acres and is the only deep draft container port in Northern California, servicing more than 99 percent of the containerized goods for Northern California. According to 2021 data, the Seaport is the ninth-busiest container port in the United States based on total twenty-foot equivalent units (TEU<sup>1</sup>) of cargo serviced.

The Oakland Harbor waterways (Figure 1) include the Entrance Channel, the Outer Harbor Channel and Outer Harbor Turning Basin (OHTB) that serve terminals located along the Outer Harbor, and the Inner Harbor Channel and Inner Harbor Turning Basin (IHTB) that serve terminals located along the Inner Harbor. The Oakland Harbor, including the OHTB and IHTB, are currently maintained to 50 feet below mean lower low water (MLLW).<sup>2</sup>

The existing OHTB and IHTB were designed and constructed for a vessel 1,139 feet long. Today, longer vessels are routinely calling Oakland and are subject to transit restrictions. These inefficiencies and impacts are projected to persist and increase over time because longer vessels are expected to transit the Oakland Harbor with greater frequency.

<sup>1</sup> A TEU is a unit representing a 20-foot-long container.

<sup>2</sup> Mean lower low water refers to the water elevation of the lowest low tides averaged over a 19-year period.

**Figure 1 Oakland Harbor and Turning Basins**



**OAKLAND HARBOR DEEP DRAFT CHANNEL LIMITS**

Proposed Project Location/Vicinity Map  
(No Scale)

**Project Description:** To improve the efficiency of vessels entering and exiting the Oakland Harbor, the Port, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is proposing the Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Project to increase the widths of the existing turning basins to accommodate a vessel with a length of 1,310 feet. The Proposed Project is designed to improve vessel transit conditions and navigational safety.

To construct the widened IHTB, the existing IHTB would be widened an additional 334 feet at a depth of 50 feet below MLLW, consistent with the IHTB’s existing depth. Dryland and structures within the widening area would be removed in locations adjacent to the existing IHTB; locations include a portion of property owned by the Port (Howard Terminal) and a portion of private property along the Alameda shoreline. Other improvements include removing pavement and pile-supported structures, demolishing portions of two existing warehouses (in Alameda), installing a new steel and concrete bulkhead,<sup>3</sup> excavating landside soil between the new and existing bulkhead, removing a portion of rock dike (at Howard Terminal), demolishing a portion of bulkhead (at Alameda), and installing rock slope protection in front of the new bulkheads. Dredging would be required to remove material below water and within an area of the existing channel. A subsurface bulkhead with rock protection would also be installed along the northwest portion of the new turning basin to provide additional stabilization of the adjacent shoreline. To construct the widened OHTB, the existing OHTB would be widened an additional 315 feet at a depth of 50 feet below MLLW, consistent with the existing depth of the OHTB. Widening the OHTB would be conducted via dredging.

<sup>3</sup> A bulkhead serves as a retaining structure between land and water.

The Proposed Project is anticipated to commence in July 2027 and take approximately 2.5 years to construct. Electric-powered dredging would be performed during approved environmental windows, with the majority of the dredged material to be placed at a beneficial reuse site for the protection, restoration, or creation of aquatic wetland habitats. Some landside excavated and dredged material would be disposed of at a Class II (non-hazardous) or Class I (hazardous) landfill.

**Draft EIR:** The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that the Port, as the Lead Agency with the principal responsibility for approving the project, conduct an environmental review of the project. Per Sections 15162 and 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines, a Draft EIR has been prepared as the CEQA document for the Proposed Project. The Draft EIR identifies potential effects of the Proposed Project on the physical environment. In particular, the Draft EIR identifies the following resource topics where the Proposed Project would result in potentially significant impacts that require mitigation measures: air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards/hazardous materials, hydrology/water quality, noise, transportation, and tribal cultural resources.

**Public Review Period:** The Port is making the Draft EIR available for public review and comment in accordance with CEQA for a minimum of 45 days. The public review and comment period will be from October 3, 2023 to November 17, 2023. During this comment period, comments may be submitted in the following ways:

**Online via form submission at:** [www.portoakland.com/turningbasins](http://www.portoakland.com/turningbasins)

**By email to:** [TurningBasins@portoakland.com](mailto:TurningBasins@portoakland.com)

**By mail to:**

Port of Oakland  
Environmental Programs and Planning Division  
Ms. Khamly Chuop  
530 Water Street  
Oakland, CA 94607

**Public meeting:** Provide comments orally or in writing during any of the three public meetings

**Comments on the Draft EIR must be received by 5:00 PM on Friday, November 17, 2023.**

**Meeting Information:** The Port is holding three separate public meetings, one in-person and two virtual, for the Proposed Project. Each meeting will provide the same information and the same opportunity to provide comments on the Draft EIR. Spanish and Chinese language interpreters will be available at each public meeting.

The public meetings will be held at the dates and times identified below. Additional details about the public meetings, including how to access the virtual public meetings, is available at [www.portoakland.com/turningbasins](http://www.portoakland.com/turningbasins).

## IN-PERSON MEETING

Wednesday, October 25, 2023, 5:00 PM to 7:30 PM  
Open House at 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM  
Program starts at 6:00 PM  
55 Harrison Street, Oakland, California, 94607

The in-person public meeting will be held at 55 Harrison Street in Oakland, California. Port representatives will be available at poster stations to provide information and answer questions during a one-hour Open House. The program will begin after the Open House, and will include a presentation by the Port, followed by an opportunity to provide comments. Information on transit, parking, on-site childcare and dog care, and other logistics is available at [www.portofoakland.com/turningbasins](http://www.portofoakland.com/turningbasins).

### **VIRTUAL MEETINGS**

Monday, November 6, 2023, 6:00 PM to 7:30 PM  
Tuesday, November 7, 2023, 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM

Virtual public meetings will begin with a presentation by the Port followed by an opportunity to provide comments.

**Additional Accommodations:** To request auxiliary aids or services such as interpreters, please contact Laura Arreola at (510) 627-1135 or [turningbasins@portoakland.com](mailto:turningbasins@portoakland.com) no later than five days prior to the meeting. For requests received within five days of the public meeting, the Port will attempt to provide auxiliary aids or services if possible.

**Copies of the Draft EIR:** Please visit the Proposed Project website at [www.portofoakland.com/turningbasins](http://www.portofoakland.com/turningbasins) to view and download an electronic copy of the Draft EIR.

In addition to posting the Draft EIR, copies of the Draft EIR are available for viewing at the Port of Oakland headquarters and eight (8) public libraries at the locations listed below.

- Port of Oakland Office Lobby at 530 Water Street, Oakland
- Oakland Public Library, West Oakland Branch at 1801 Adeline Street, Oakland
- Oakland Public Library, Asian Branch at 388 9th Street #190, Oakland
- Oakland Public Library, Central Library at 125 14th Street, Oakland
- Oakland Public Library, César E. Chávez Branch at 3301 E. 12th Street #271, Oakland
- Oakland African American Museum and Library at 659 14th Street, Oakland
- Oakland Public Library, Golden Gate Branch at 5606 San Pablo Avenue, Oakland
- Alameda Public Library, West End Branch at 788 Santa Clara Avenue, Alameda
- San Leandro Public Library, Main Library at 300 Estudillo Avenue, San Leandro

**Note regarding Federal Requirements:** Federal approval will be required for this project and this project is subject to review under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the lead agency for NEPA documentation.