Purpose
The Port of Long Beach is planning to reconfigure, expand and enhance the existing Pier B rail facility located southwest of West Anaheim Street and the 710 Freeway. The improved facility will support more efficient use of “on-dock” rail at the Port’s shipping terminals, which will in turn ease roadway traffic congestion and improve air quality. The project is needed to help the Port meet on-dock rail goals set in the San Pedro Bay Ports 2017 Clean Air Action Plan Update.

The Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Facility Project will be designed to:
- Allow Port terminals to move cargo faster and more efficiently by assembling longer trains up to 10,000 feet long.
- Reconfigure existing tracks and add additional tracks to directly connect to on-dock rail facilities and the Alameda Corridor railway. The project will require the closing of the 9th Street rail crossing.
- Encompass 171 acres in the Harbor District, south of 12th Street, north of Pier B Street, and west of the 710 Freeway. The Port will need to acquire some properties in the project’s footprint.
- Improve the Port’s competitiveness by adding on-dock rail capacity, which allows more cargo to move with less environmental impact.

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Overview
The existing Pier B rail facility serves as a storage and staging area for trains and is a critical juncture in the Port’s rail network. The facility is primarily used by Pacific Harbor Line (PHL), which provides rail dispatching and switching services. PHL has been recognized as America’s “greenest” railroad for converting its fleet to clean diesel locomotives that dramatically reduce pollution and save fuel.

The project will allow trains up to 10,000 feet long to be loaded and unloaded at on-dock rail yards at marine terminals to streamline rail operations, remove bottlenecks, and minimize the increase in truck trips as cargo volume grows.

Environmental Review
The Port of Long Beach in December 2016 released a draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) on the project, fully studying the effects of the project on air quality, water quality, transportation, biological resources, and other issues. The document was updated following review and input by the public. Written responses to all of the comments received were included in the final EIR. The final EIR was approved by the Board of Harbor Commissioners in January 2018.

Additional Information
To see the EIR for the Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Facility, go to www.polb.com/ceqa

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