Commander Eleventh Coast Guard District U.S. Coast Guard Island, Bldg 50-2 Alameda, CA 94501-5100 Staff Symbol: dpw Phone: (510) 437-3516 Fax: (510) 437-5836 Email: Carl.T.Hausner@uscg.mil

June 9, 2022

## **PUBLIC NOTICE (11-157a)**

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE PROPOSED PORT OF STOCKTON RAIL BRIDGE REPLACEMENT AND RAIL IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT, AT THE PORT OF STOCKTON, SAN JOAQUIN COUNTY, CALIFORNIA

All interested parties are notified that the U.S. Coast Guard, as the lead federal agency, announces the availability of a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for the proposed Port of Stockton Rail Bridge Replacement and Rail Improvements Project (the Project), at the Port of Stockton, San Joaquin County, California.

The Project includes replacing the rail bridge over the San Joaquin River and constructing a new lead track.

As structures built over navigable waterways of the United States, the proposed replacement bridge will require a Coast Guard Bridge Permit concurrent with completion of an environmental review. The Coast Guard is making the draft EA available for public review and comment. In order to ensure the widest dissemination possible, the Coast Guard distributed a separate document announcing the availability of this public notice to a mailing list that includes; property owners/residents within a 0.5 mile radius of the project; applicable federal, state, and local government agencies; California Native American Heritage Commission list of federally recognized and non-federally recognized Native American tribes; local Historical Societies; local marinas; and commercial mariners.

The applicant and owner of the existing bridge and rail tracks, the Port of Stockton (Port), has determined the existing single rail track swing bridge is functionally obsolete and will not support projected volumes. The replacement dual rail removable span bridge and new lead track will increase the overall efficiency of train operations within the Port and will accommodate projected volumes.

The Coast Guard is the lead federal agency for this project and, as such, responsible for the review of its potential effects on the human environment, including historic properties and tribal impacts, pursuant to NEPA and NHPA. The Coast Guard, therefore, is required by law to ensure potential environmental effects are carefully evaluated in each bridge permitting decision. As part of this evaluation process, the Coast Guard solicits comments from State and Federal agencies with expertise in, and authority over, particular resources that may be impacted by a project. Additionally, the Coast Guard seeks input from any tribes that may be affected or otherwise have expertise or equities in the project.

The draft EA describes the proposed project, evaluates reasonable and feasible alternatives, and defines the natural, cultural and socioeconomic resources located in the project area. Based on the draft EA, the Coast Guard has tentatively determined the proposed project, with mitigation, will pose no significant impacts on the human and natural environment. The draft EA has been prepared in accordance with NEPA and the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR §§ 1500-1588). This notice announces the availability of the draft EA for a 30-day public review and comment period. The Notice of Availability includes the date by which the 30-day public review and comment period will conclude. After consideration of all additional public comments, the Coast Guard may issue a Finding of No Significant Impact or may determine the project will pose significant impacts requiring an EIS. If the Coast Guard determines at EIS is required, there will be additional opportunity for public comment in accordance with NEPA procedures for the preparation of an EIS.

The draft EA may be viewed at the following location:

Commander (dpw)
Eleventh Coast Guard District
Coast Guard Island, Bldg 50-2
Alameda, CA 94501

Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m., except Federal holidays.

The draft EA can be viewed and downloaded at: https://go.usa.gov/xuGjD

Comments will be received through July 11, 2022 and can be addressed to;

Commander (dpw)
Eleventh Coast Guard District
Coast Guard Island, Bldg. 50-2
Alameda, CA 94501-5100

Carl.T.Hausner@uscg.mil

It is requested that this information be brought to the attention of any person having an interest in this proposed project but who may not have received a copy of this public notice.

or

CARL T. HAUSNER
Chief, Bridge Section
Eleventh Coast Guard District
By direction of the District Commander

Attention Postmaster: Please Post.