corporation; CHINA COSCO SHIPPING

CORPORATION LIMITED, a corporation;

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COSCO SHIPPING (NORTH AMERICA), INC., a California corporation; WEST BASIN CONTAINER TERMINAL LLC, a Delaware corporation; and DOES 1 THROUGH 20, inclusive,

Real Parties in Interest.

Petitioners/Plaintiffs Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., San Pedro and Peninsula Homeowners Coalition, San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc., East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, and Coalition for Clean Air, Inc. (collectively "Petitioners/Plaintiffs") bring this action on their own behalf, on behalf of their members, on behalf of the general public, and in the public interest in order to enforce the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and to protect air quality and public health in and near the City of Los Angeles, California. Petitioners/Plaintiffs allege as follows:

#### **INTRODUCTION**

- 1. This case is the most recent installment in a twenty-year battle between the Port of Los Angeles and community groups and environmental and environmental justice advocacy organizations fighting for their right to breathe clean air.
- 2. For over a decade, the Port of Los Angeles has allowed one of its tenants—China Shipping (North America) Holding Co., Ltd. ("China Shipping")—to operate in violation of a host of air quality mitigation measures required to be implemented under a 2008 Environmental Impact Report (the "2008 EIR"). Throughout this time, residents of San Pedro, Wilmington, and Long Beach—including Petitioners/Plaintiffs' members and their families—have been subjected to the known health risks associated with exposure to harmful air pollutants, including increased risk of asthma, higher risk of cancer, and more recently, higher likelihood of contracting, and developing life-threatening cases of COVID-19.
- 3. In September 2015, the Port of Los Angeles issued a notice of preparation, announcing its intention to prepare a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report for the China Shipping Container Terminal. The purpose of this supplemental environmental review was to eliminate or modify the mitigation measures contained in the 2008 EIR.

- 4. In October 2019, the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners certified the 2019 Final Supplemental EIR and Revised Project for the China Shipping Container Terminal (the "2019 SEIR"). Among its many deficiencies, the 2019 SEIR fails to fully disclose and analyze the environmental and health effects of the Terminal's operation (the "Revised Project"), and to mitigate those effects.
- 5. Further, the 2019 SEIR weakens, and in some cases eliminates, many of the common-sense, feasible mitigation measures that were required by the 2008 EIR—mitigation measures that China Shipping did not implement with the tacit endorsement and, in many cases, the explicit and unlawful approval, of the Port of Los Angeles.
- 6. Because of these deficiencies, the 2019 SEIR violates CEQA's command to inform the public and decisionmakers about the health and environmental impacts of the Terminal's operation, and to analyze and mitigate those impacts.
- 7. Petitioners/Plaintiffs ask this Court to vacate the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners' certification of the 2019 SEIR and approval of the Revised Project.

#### JURISDICTION AND VENUE

- 8. This Court has jurisdiction over this action under California Code of Civil Procedure sections 1085, 1094.5, and 1060, and California Public Resources Code sections 21168, 21168.5, and 21168.9.
- 9. Venue is proper in this Court under California Code of Civil Procedure sections 393 and 394 because Respondents/Defendants are local governmental entities situated in the County of Los Angeles. The Central District of the Los Angeles County Superior Court is the proper venue for this action under Los Angeles County Superior Court Rule 2.3(a).
- 10. Plaintiffs/Petitioners participated in the administrative process that resulted in the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners' decision to approve and certify the 2019 SEIR for the China Shipping terminal through written and oral comments. Plaintiffs/Petitioners further appealed the certification of the 2019 SEIR to the Los Angeles City Council.
- 11. Petitioners/Plaintiffs have exhausted all administrative remedies prior to filing this action.

- 12. This action was timely filed within 30 days of the City of Los Angeles's posting of its August 17, 2020 Notice of Decision under CEQA.
- 13. Petitioners/Plaintiffs have provided written notice of their intent to file this action to Respondents/Defendants as required under California Public Resources Code section 21167.5 and include the notice and proof of service as Exhibit A to this Petition.
- 14. Petitioners/Plaintiffs have served the Attorney General with a copy of this petition along with a notice of its filing, as required under California Public Resources Code section 21167.7, and include the notice and proof of service as Exhibit B.
- 15. Petitioners/Plaintiffs have notified Respondents/Defendants that they are considering electing to prepare the administrative record as provided under California Public Resources Code section 21167.6(b)(2), and Los Angeles County Superior Court Local Rule 3.232(d)(1)-(2), and include the notice as Exhibit C.
  - 16. Petitioners/Plaintiffs do not have a plain, speedy, or adequate remedy at law.
- 17. The maintenance of this action is for the purpose of enforcing important public policies of the State of California with respect to the protection of the environment and public participation under CEQA. The maintenance and prosecution of this action will confer a substantial benefit upon the public by protecting the public from the environmental and other harms alleged in this Petition and Complaint. As such, Petitioners/Plaintiffs are entitled to the recovery of attorneys' fees under California Civil Procedure Code section 1021.5.

#### **PARTIES**

18. Petitioner/Plaintiff Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. (NRDC) is a national, nonprofit environmental membership organization whose purpose is to safeguard the Earth: its people, its plants and animals, and the natural systems on which all life depends. NRDC was founded in 1970 and is organized under the laws of the State of New York. NRDC is headquartered in New York, New York, and maintains offices in Santa Monica, California, and San Francisco, California. NRDC has hundreds of thousands of members nationwide, including many in the City of Los Angeles. For decades, NRDC has worked alongside community groups in San Pedro, Wilmington, and Long Beach, to advocate for the minimization and mitigation of

adverse effects to human health and the environment caused by the operations of the Port of Los Angeles, and to ensure that the Port is accountable to the public for its duties under state and federal laws, including CEQA.

- 19. Petitioner/Plaintiff San Pedro and Peninsula Homeowners Coalition
  ("Homeowners Coalition") is a coalition of homeowners associations in the San Pedro area. The
  purpose of the Homeowners Coalition is to protect the interests of residents of the San Pedro area.
  Through its participating organizations, the Homeowners Coalition represents thousands of
  people, many of whom live near the Port and whose lives are adversely affected by the air
  pollution and other environmental and health impacts caused by the Port's operations.
- 20. Petitioner/Plaintiff San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc. ("Homeowners United") is an association of renters and homeowners who live in the San Pedro area, many of whom live adjacent to and near the Port. Homeowners United's mission is to protect the interests of its members and the community in which its members live. Many of its members live near the Port and are adversely affected by the air pollution and other environmental and health impacts caused by the Port's operations.
- 21. Petitioner/Plaintiff East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice (EYCEJ) is an environmental health and justice nonprofit organization working towards a safe and healthy environment for communities that are disproportionately suffering the negative impacts of industrial pollution. EYCEJ was established in 2002, and is based out of East Los Angeles, Southeast Los Angeles, and Long Beach, California. EYCEJ recognizes and promotes full and authentic community participation in making policies that affect them directly, promoting the implementation of Environmental Justice guidelines by local, state, and federal governments and agencies, as well as industry. EYCEJ utilizes research-based information, workshops, and trainings to empower its communities, preparing its constituents to engage in decisionmaking processes that directly impact their health and quality of life.
- 22. Petitioner/Plaintiff Coalition for Clean Air, Inc. (CCA) is a California non-profit corporation. CCA is the only statewide organization exclusively advocating for air quality in California, and has actively participated in proceedings related to the local, state and federal

Petitioners/Plaintiffs at this time. Petitioners/Plaintiffs will amend this Petition to reflect the names of each Doe at the time that Petitioners/Plaintiffs learn of their names.

#### FACTUAL BACKGROUND

#### The Community and Environmental Setting

- 30. For more than twenty years, the Port of Los Angeles has been the busiest container port in the Western Hemisphere. The Port handles more than 40% of all containerized cargo in the West Coast, and at least 17% of all containerized cargo nationwide. These goods arrive in containers transported by petroleum-burning heavy vessels, are offloaded from ships by diesel-powered cargo handling equipment, and are transported to local distribution centers by diesel trucks and trains.
- 31. The environmental impacts of the Port's operations are substantial. Together with its neighboring Port of Long Beach, the ports are the largest fixed sources of air pollution in the South Coast Air Quality Management District—one of the most polluted air districts in the United States. The South Coast Air Quality Management District includes much of Greater Los Angeles and is home to 17 million people. The Port emits daily more smog and nitrogen oxides (NOx) than all six million cars in the region.<sup>2</sup>
- 32. The Port's environmental impact is significant not only in isolation, but also when taking into consideration the region's environmental context. The South Coast Air Basin is in non-attainment under the federal Clean Air Act for both fine particulate matter and ozone. The emissions attributable to the Port's operations significantly contribute to these designations.
- 33. Exposure to dangerous air pollutants such as smog and NOx is known to cause and exacerbate a host of illnesses, including asthma and respiratory infections. Diesel particulate matter, emitted in massive amounts by the many ships, trucks, and diesel-powered equipment servicing the Port, is associated with a number of long- and short-term health effects, including decreased lung function and increased susceptibility to infection, and is a known carcinogen in

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Facts and Figures, The Port of Los Angeles, <a href="https://www.portoflosangeles.org/business/statistics/facts-and-figures">https://www.portoflosangeles.org/business/statistics/facts-and-figures</a> (last visited Sept 14, 2020).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Clean Port, SCAQMD, http://www.aqmd.gov/nav/about/initiatives/clean-port (last visited Sept 14, 2020).

the State of California.<sup>3</sup>

34. The neighboring communities of Wilmington, San Pedro, and Long Beach shoulder the brunt of the impacts caused by the Port's continued and excessive reliance on diesel-powered vehicles and equipment. These communities face the region's highest cancer risk from air pollution and suffer from some of the highest asthma rates across the state. Sensitive groups, including children and the elderly, face an increased risk from these dangerous air pollutants: exposure to air pollution impairs lung function and growth in children, and exacerbates chronic health conditions leading to premature death. And, as recent research shows, long-term exposure to NOx may be one of the most important contributors to COVID-19 fatality. Further, even small increases in long-term exposure to fine particulate pollution leads to a large increase in the COVID-19 death rate. 5

#### The China Shipping Project

- 35. In 2001, the BHC and the City approved a long-term lease and permit for China Shipping to construct and operate a container Terminal in the Port of Los Angeles. Despite the potential significant adverse environmental and health effects that would come with the construction and operation of this massive undertaking, the Terminal's construction and operation were approved without the environmental impact report required under CEQA.
- 36. Shortly thereafter, four of the Petitioners/Plaintiffs here sued the Port, BHC, and the City, for approving the Terminal's construction and operation in violation of CEQA. In 2002, a three-judge appellate panel agreed with the petitioners, permanently enjoining further construction at the Terminal and ordering the Port to prepare an Environmental Impact Report before allowing the Terminal to reopen. The City's request for rehearing was denied by the Court of Appeal, and the California Supreme Court denied the Port's petition for review.
  - 37. In 2003, the parties entered a stipulated judgment, partially lifting the injunction to

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> See California Air Resources Board, Findings of the Scientific Review Panel On The Report on Diesel Exhaust (Apr. 22, 1998), https://ww2.arb.ca.gov/sites/default/files/classic/toxics/dieseltac/de-fnds.htm.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Yaron Ogen, Assessing Nitrogen Oxide (NO<sub>2</sub>) Levels as a Contributing Factor to Coronavirus (COVID-19) Fatality, Sci. Total Environ (Apr. 11, 2020), <a href="https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7151460/">https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7151460/</a>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Xiao Wu et al., Exposure to Air Pollution and COVID-19 Mortality in the United States: A Nationwide Cross-Sectional Study (April 24, 2020), <a href="https://projects.iq.harvargl.edu/covid-pm">https://projects.iq.harvargl.edu/covid-pm</a>.

allow the Port to complete construction and operation of the first phase of the China Shipping Terminal while preparing the China Shipping EIR. In exchange, the Port agreed to implement a number of air quality and aesthetic mitigation measures, many of which would be included in the Terminal's eventual EIR. These mitigation measures included requirements for certain cargo handling equipment to be powered by alternative fuels, installation of low-profile cranes to reduce visual impacts, and installation and operation of alternative maritime power (AMP) infrastructure to provide shoreside electrical power for ship hoteling, among other measures.

#### **The 2008 EIR**

- 38. In June 2003, the Port issued a notice of preparation for the China Shipping Terminal, announcing the beginning of the court mandated CEQA review of the Terminal.
- 39. Over the course of several years, the Port engaged with numerous stakeholders—local, state, and federal agencies; industry representatives; environmental organizations; and the broader public—to define the scope of the EIR, identify alternatives, and thoroughly study the Terminal's impacts. Throughout this process, the Port also worked with stakeholders to identify a range of feasible mitigation measures that would allow the Terminal to continue operating while minimizing the associated health and environmental impacts.
- 40. In late 2008, nearly six years after the Court of Appeal ordered the Port to prepare an EIR for the China Shipping Project, the BHC certified the 2008 China Shipping EIR and approved the Terminal.
- 41. The 2008 EIR included 52 common-sense, feasible mitigation measures intended to reduce the impacts of the construction and operation of the China Shipping Terminal. The 2008 EIR included phase-in schedules, giving China Shipping, in some cases, up to ten years to come into full compliance with these measures.
- 42. Mitigation measure AQ-9, for example, required China Shipping ships calling at the Terminal to use AMP while hoteling in the Port. AMP provides electric power needed to operate on-ship equipment to docked vessels—power that would otherwise be provided by the vessel's petroleum-burning engines. Under the 2008 EIR, this requirement was to be gradually implemented, requiring only 70% compliance by mid-2005, 90% compliance by 2010, and 100%

compliance by 2011. Additionally, this requirement included an exception for circumstances when an AMP-capable berth is unavailable due to utilization by another AMP-capable ship.

- 43. Mitigation measures AQ-15 through AQ-17 required, among other things, diesel-powered cargo-handling equipment at the Terminal to be the cleanest available NOx alternative-fueled engines meeting the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Tier-4 standards. In the case of rubber-tired gantry cranes (RTGs), the 2008 EIR required that the Terminal transition to electric models. In all cases, the 2008 EIR allowed a phase-in period of one to six years.
- 44. Mitigation measure AQ-20 required that heavy-duty trucks entering the China Shipping Terminal be fueled by liquified natural gas. As with other such mitigation measures, implementation of this requirement was to be phased-in, requiring 50% compliance by 2012, 70% compliance by 2014, and 100% compliance only after 2018.
- 45. While commenters, including several of the Petitioners/Plaintiffs here, exhorted the Port to require more stringent mitigation measures, they were optimistic that the 2008 EIR was a sign of the Port's desire to rectify its earlier errors and to usher a new chapter of this story—a chapter where the Port would embrace its mandate under the law to "prevent[] environmental damage" and "provid[e] a decent home and satisfying living environment for every Californian," Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21000(g), rather than shirk this duty. These hopes, like the commitments made by the Port, were short lived.

#### The Port Reneges on its 2008 EIR Commitments

46. An article published by the *Los Angeles Times* in 2015 described how, for several years, the Port had been striking closed-door deals with China Shipping to undermine the requirements of the 2008 EIR. Port records obtained by the *Los Angeles Times* through a California Public Records Act request showed that, only a few months after the certification of the 2008 EIR, the Port began granting unlawful exemptions to China Shipping, guaranteeing that it would face no consequences for violating the 2008 EIR's AMP requirements. Hidden from the public eye and in flagrant violation of CEQA, the Port continued granting these backdoor

<sup>6</sup> Tony Barboza, *The Port of L.A. Rolled Back Measures to Cut Pollution – During its 'Green' Expansion*, L.A. TIMES (Dec. 13, 2015), <a href="https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-port-pollution-20151215-story.html">https://www.latimes.com/local/california/la-me-port-pollution-20151215-story.html</a>.

exemptions until 2014, when state regulators began requiring AMP use. Despite the 2008 EIR's requirement that no less than 90% of all ships calling at the China Shipping Terminal between 2005 and 2010 plug into AMP, and 100% after 2011, the annual compliance rate during this time period plummeted to as low as 12%.

- Petitioners/Plaintiffs also became aware of the many mitigation measures that the Port had failed to implement. For example, as later acknowledged by the Port, although mitigation measure AQ-15 required that all yard tractors operated at China Shipping be equipped with the cleanest available NOx alternative-fueled engine meeting EPA Tier 4 standards by the beginning of 2015, none of China Shipping's yard tractors met Tier 4 requirements by that time. Similarly, the Port failed to ensure that China Shipping implement the Tier 4 engine requirements of mitigation measures AQ-16 and AQ-17. Although AQ-17 required that RTGs be electric by 2009, not a single electric RTG was placed in operation by 2015. And even though mitigation measure AQ-20 established a gradual implementation schedule for LNG-fueled heavy-duty trucks, only 6% of the truck calls at the China Shipping Terminal were made by LNG trucks in 2014, despite the 2008 EIR's requirement that no less than 70% of heavy-duty trucks be LNG-powered by that time.
- 48. As explained in the 2008 EIR, the Port claimed it would make these mitigation measures enforceable by seeking a lease amendment with China Shipping and including the mitigation measures in the amended lease. With a 40-year lease in hand and no legal requirement to negotiate a new lease, however, China Shipping refused to amend its lease. As a result, the Port failed to require implementation of the 2008 EIR mitigation measures as a condition of its lease agreement with China Shipping.

#### The 2019 SEIR Process

49. In September 2015, the Port issued a notice of preparation, announcing its intention to prepare the 2019 SEIR. The notice half-heartedly acknowledged that the Port had failed to implement 11 of the 2008 EIR's mitigation measures. The purpose of this supplemental environmental review was to eliminate or modify the mitigation measures contained in the 2008 EIR.

- 50. The Draft SEIR was circulated on June 14, 2017. Petitioners/Plaintiffs submitted extensive written comments on this document and participated in the scoping meeting.
- 51. On September 28, 2018, the Port issued a Recirculated Draft SEIR. In response to this document, Petitioners/Plaintiffs submitted written comments.
- 52. The Final SEIR was circulated on September 5, 2019. Again, Petitioners/Plaintiffs submitted written comments on this document. Additionally, Petitioners/Plaintiffs presented oral comments at a public hearing before the BHC on October 8, 2019, at which time the BHC approved the 2019 SEIR.
- 53. On October 18, 2019, Petitioners/Plaintiffs appealed the certification of the 2019 SEIR to the Los Angeles City Council. In addition to Petitioners/Plaintiffs, the South Coast Air Quality Management District and the California Air Resources Board also challenged the BHC's certification of the 2019 SEIR. The State's Office of the Attorney General also urged City Council to reject BHC's certification of the 2019 SEIR.
- 54. On August 12, 2020, the Los Angeles City Council heard and denied Petitioners/Plaintiffs' appeal of the 2019 SEIR. The City filed a Notice of Determination for the Project on August 17, 2020.

#### CEQA LEGAL BACKGROUND

- 55. The California Environmental Quality Act, Pub. Res. Code § 21000 *et seq.*, is a comprehensive statute established to ensure "that the long-term protection of the environment . . . shall be the guiding criterion in public decisions." Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21101(d). In enacting CEQA, the Legislature declared its intention that all governmental agencies that "regulate activities . . . which are found to affect the quality of the government" do so in such a way "that major consideration is given to preventing environmental damage, while providing a decent home and satisfying living environment for every Californian." *Id.* § 21000(g).
- 56. To accomplish this goal, CEQA requires agencies to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for every project that may have significant environmental effects. Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, § 15002(f)(1). The purpose of an EIR is not only to inform the public and decisionmakers about the potential significant environmental effects of proposed activities, but also to "[i]dentify

ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced," including by

considering alternatives and mitigation measures. Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, § 15002(a)(2).

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Exposition Metro Line Const. Auth., 57 Cal. 4th 439, 449 (2013).

62. The failure to select a proper baseline prevented the 2019 SEIR from adequately analyzing and disclosing the significant environmental impacts of the Terminal's operation under the 2019 SEIR. By certifying the 2019 SEIR without an adequate description of the baseline, the Port failed to proceed in the manner required by CEQA, thus committing a prejudicial abuse of discretion.

#### SECOND CAUSE OF ACTION

(Cal. Pub. Res. Code §§ 21168, 21168.5)

## Violation of CEQA – Failure to Adequately Disclose and Analyze the Terminal's Significant Environmental Effects

- 63. Petitioners/Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding allegations.
- 64. CEQA requires that an EIR include a detailed statement setting forth "[a]ll significant effects on the environment of the proposed project." Cal. Pub. Res. Code § 21100(b)(2); see also id. §§ 21002.1(a), § 21068 (defining "significant effect on the environment" as "a substantial, or potentially substantial, adverse change in the environment"). The discussion of significant effects "should be prepared with a sufficient degree of analysis to provide decisionmakers with information which enables them to make a decision which intelligently takes account of environmental consequences." Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, § 15151.
- 65. In its analysis and discussion of significant environmental effects, the 2019 SEIR assumes that the mitigation measures contained therein will be implemented starting in 2019. There are at least three fundamental errors with this assumption. First, as the Port acknowledged in the 2019 SEIR, China Shipping has a long-term lease agreement with the Port, and the proposed mitigation measures will not be enforceable until China Shipping agrees to sign a lease amendment. Second, as admitted by the Port in the 2019 SEIR, the Port does not know *if* and *when* China Shipping will agree to sign a new lease agreement or lease amendment. Finally, 2019 has now passed and the measures that were to start in 2019 still have not been implemented.
- 66. In fact, the record is replete with evidence that China Shipping *will not agree* to a lease amendment—the same way it refused such an amendment when the Port sought to integrate

the requirements of the 2008 EIR into the lease.

- 67. It is unreasonable to assume that China Shipping will now agree to a lease amendment that will significantly increase its operating costs when it is under no legal requirement to do so, when it has made no statements suggesting that it would agree to a lease amendment, and when it has refused every request to do so over the past twelve-plus years.
- 68. Because the 2019 SEIR's analysis and discussion of significant environmental effects relies on the unreasonable assumption that China Shipping will agree to a lease amendment—when the record, history, and common sense business considerations indicate otherwise—the City failed to adequately disclose and analyze the Terminal's significant environmental effects. As such, in certifying the 2019 SEIR, the City failed to proceed in the manner required by CEQA, committing a prejudicial abuse of discretion.

#### THIRD CAUSE OF ACTION

(Cal. Pub. Res. Code §§ 21168, 21168.5)

### Violation of CEQA – Failure to Provide a Complete and Coherent Explanation of Conclusions

- 69. Petitioners/Plaintiffs incorporate by reference all preceding allegations.
- 70. CEQA requires that every EIR "[i]nform governmental decision makers and the public about the potential, significant environmental effects of proposed activities." Cal. Code Regs. tit. 14, § 15002. To do so, an EIR must contain an "analytically complete and coherent explanation" of its conclusions. *Vineyard Area Citizens for Responsible Growth v. City of Rancho Cordova*, 40 Cal.4th 412, 440 (2007).
- The 2019 SEIR significantly modifies, and in some cases eliminates, 11 mitigation measures that were deemed feasible when the 2008 EIR was adopted. These include mitigation measures AQ-9 (Alternative Maritime Power), AQ-10 (Vessel Speed Reduction Program), AQ-15 (Yard Tractors at Berth 97-109 Terminal), AQ-16 (Yard Equipment at Berth 121-131 Rail Yard), AQ-17 (Yard Equipment at Berth 97-109 Terminal), AQ-20 (LNG Trucks), and AQ-23 (Throughput Tracking).
  - 72. An agency cannot delete or modify a mitigation measure adopted in a previous

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Cal. Pub. Res. Code §§ 21002, 21081.

- The 2019 SEIR fails to analyze and adopt all feasible mitigation measures available that would minimize the Revised Project's significant environmental effects.
- For example, the 2019 SEIR's mitigation measure AQ-9 (Alternative Maritime Power) would require that at least 95% of the ships calling at the China Shipping Terminal use AMP while hoteling in the Port, with exceptions for certain enumerated circumstances. However, as the 2019 SEIR shows, China Shipping has been able to achieve 99% compliance in the past. By setting an arbitrary compliance rate of 95 percent—a rate lower than the compliance rates China Shipping's past operations confirm to be feasible—the 2019 SEIR fails to consider all feasible mitigation measures, and in turn fails to minimize the Terminal's significant environmental effects.
- 79. Similarly, the 2019 SEIR's mitigation measure AQ-10 (Vessel Speed Reduction Program) would require that at least 95% of vessels calling at the China Shipping Terminal comply with the expanded Vessel Speed Reduction Program of 12 knots between 40 nautical miles from Point Fermin and the Precautionary Area. However, as shown in the 2019 SEIR, the Port has demonstrated that it can achieve 99% compliance at the Terminal. Here, again, the 2019 SEIR fails to consider all feasible mitigation measures, and in turn fails to minimize the Terminal's significant environmental effects.
- 80. The 2019 SEIR also fails to consider all feasible measures to minimize the significant environmental impacts of the yard tractors and cargo-handling equipment servicing the Terminal. The 2019 SEIR's mitigation measures AQ-15, AQ-16, and AQ-17 set forth a drawnout implementation plan that gives China Shipping, in some cases, no less than seven additional years to transition its cargo-handling fleet to the types of equipment that were required to be implemented many years ago under the 2008 EIR. For example, while the 2008 EIR required China Shipping to implement fully electric RTGs by 2009, the 2019 SEIR gives China Shipping until seven years after the effective date of a new lease to do so. Even assuming the unlikely occurrence of a new lease, the 2019 SEIR would not require the use of electric RTGs until at least 2027—eighteen years after these cranes were required to be replaced under the 2008 EIR.

- 81. The 2019 SEIR also failed to consider newer, more environmentally protective yard tractors and cargo-handling equipment. For example, electric yard tractors, forklifts, and RTGs are feasible and commercially available mitigation measures, and the Port has been conducting demonstrations of zero-emission top picks. Yet, the 2019 SEIR fails to adequately consider such zero-emission equipment. By failing to require a near-term equipment transition, and by failing to consider more environmentally protective yard tractors and cargo handling equipment, the 2019 SEIR fails to consider all feasible mitigation measures, and in turn fails to minimize the Terminal's significant environmental effects.
- 82. Further, the 2019 SEIR does not adequately consider mitigation measures to reduce the emissions of drayage trucks arriving at and departing from the China Shipping Terminal. Zero-emission trucks are feasible and commercially available mitigation measures. The 2019 SEIR fails to consider the use of zero-emission drayage trucks by, for example, restricting the entry of diesel trucks to the Terminal.
- 83. The 2019 SEIR suffers from another fundamental flaw: it fails to make its mitigation measures legally enforceable. Implementation and enforceability of the 2019 SEIR's mitigation measures are premised on China Shipping's agreement to sign a new or amended lease. As the record shows, there is no indication that China Shipping will now agree to sign a new or amended lease.  $See \P 65-67$ .
- 84. By certifying the 2019 SEIR without mitigating the Revised Project's significant environmental effects, the City failed to proceed in the manner required by CEQA, thus committing a prejudicial abuse of discretion.

#### PRAYER FOR RELIEF

Wherefore, Petitioners/Plaintiffs respectfully request relief as follows:

- 1. For a writ of mandate directing Respondents/Defendants to set aside and vacate their October 12, 2019 certification of the 2019 SEIR and approval of the Revised Project; and refrain from granting any further approvals for the operation of the China Shipping Terminal unless and until Respondents/Defendants fully comply with the requirements of CEQA; and
  - 2. For declaratory judgment that Respondents/Defendants violated CEQA in

# EXHIBIT A

### NRDC

City of Los Angeles 200 N. Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012 Fax: 213-978-8312

Los Angeles City Council 200 N. Spring St., Suite 360 Los Angeles, CA 90012 Fax: 213-978-8211

Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners 425 South Palos Verdes St. San Pedro, CA 90731 Fax: 310-831-9778

Port of Los Angeles 425 South Palos Verdes St. San Pedro, CA 90731 Fax: 310-831-9778

September 16, 2020

Re: Notice of Commencement of CEQA Litigation Challenging the Certification of the China Shipping 2019 Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and Revised Project

Dear Sir/Madam:

This letter is to notify you that the Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc., San Pedro and Peninsula Homeowners Coalition, San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc., East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, and Coalition for Clean Air, Inc., intend to file suit against the City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners, and the Port of

Los Angeles for failing to comply with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Public Resources Code section 21000 et seq., and the CEQA Guidelines, California Code of Regulations section 15000 et seq., in certifying the China Shipping 2019 Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and approving the Revised Project. This notice is given pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21167.5.

Yours truly,

Gonzalo E. Rodriguez

laire Woods

Natural Resources Defense Council

Melissa Lin Perrella

Mediant femble

Natural Resources Defense Council

Claire Woods

Natural Resources Defense Council

David Pettit

Natural Resources Defense Council

Attorneys for Natural Resources Defense Council, San Pedro and Peninsula Homeowners Coalition, San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc., East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, and Coalition for Clean Air, Inc.

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Gonzalo E. Rodriguez Gonzalez, declare that I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this action. I am employed in the County of San Francisco, State of California. My business address is: 111 Sutter St. Fl. 21, San Francisco, California, which is located in the county where the mailing described below occurred. On September 16, 2020, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as:

- Notice of Commencement of CEQA Litigation Challenging the Certification of the China Shipping 2019 Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and Revised Project
- Notice Re: Preparation of Record of Administrative Proceedings

I deposited such envelope in the mail at San Francisco, California. The envelope was addressed as set forth below, and mailed with postage thereon fully prepaid. I am "readily familiar" with the organization's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at San Francisco, CA in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one (1) day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

City of Los Angeles 200 N. Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

Los Angeles City Council 200 N. Spring St., Suite 360 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners 425 South Palos Verdes St. San Pedro, CA 90731

Port of Los Angeles 425 South Palos Verdes St. San Pedro, CA 90731

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on September 16, 2020, at San Francisco, California.

Gonzalo E. Rodriguez Gonzalez

Printed Name

Signature

# EXHIBIT B

### NRDC

Xavier Becerra Attorney General of the State of California 1300 I Street Sacramento, CA 95814

September 16, 2020

Re: Notice of Commencement of CEQA Litigation:

Natural Resources Defense Council et al. v. City of Los Angeles et al.

Dear Attorney General Becerra:

Enclosed please find a copy of the Petition for Writ of Mandate and Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief in the above-entitled action. The Petition is provided to you in compliance with Public Resources Code section 21167.7 and Code of Civil Procedure section 388. Please acknowledge receipt of this letter.

Yours truly,

Gonzalo E. Rodriguez

Natural Resources Defense Council

Claire Woods

Natural Resources Defense Council

Melissa Lin Perrella

Medianet Ferrella

Natural Resources Defense Council

David Pettit

Natural Resources Defense Council

Attorneys for Natural Resources Defense Council, San Pedro and Peninsula Homeowners Coalition, San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc., East Yard Communities for Environmental Justice, and Coalition for Clean Air, Inc.

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Gonzalo E. Rodriguez Gonzalez, declare that I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this action. I am employed in the County of San Francisco, State of California. My business address is: 111 Sutter St. Fl. 21, San Francisco, California, which is located in the county where the mailing described below occurred. On September 16, 2020, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as:

- Notice of Commencement of CEQA Litigation: Natural Resources Defense Council et al. v. City of Los Angeles et al.
- Verified Petition for Writ of Mandate; Complaint for Declaratory and Injunctive Relief

I deposited such envelope in the mail at San Francisco, California. The envelope was addressed as set forth below, and mailed with postage thereon fully prepaid. I am "readily familiar" with the organization's practice of collection and processing correspondence for mailing. Under that practice it would be deposited with the U.S. Postal Service on that same day with postage thereon fully prepaid at San Francisco, CA in the ordinary course of business. I am aware that on motion of the party served, service is presumed invalid if postal cancellation date or postage meter date is more than one (1) day after date of deposit for mailing in affidavit.

Office of the Attorney General 1515 Clay Street Oakland, CA 94612-0550

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on September 16, 2020, at San Francisco, California.

Gonzalo E. Rodriguez Gonzalez

Printed Name

Signature

## EXHIBIT C

1	Claire Woods, CSBN 282348 David Pettit, CSBN 67128	
2	Melissa Lin Perrella, CSBN 205019	
3	Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc. 1314 Second Street	
4	Santa Monica, CA 90401 Telephone: (310) 434-2300	
5	Email: cwoods@nrdc.org, dpettit@nrdc.org,	
6	mlinperrella@nrdc.org	
7	Gonzalo E. Rodriguez Gonzalez, CSBN 322913	
-	Natural Resources Defense Council, Inc.	
8	111 Sutter Street, Fl. 21 San Francisco, CA 94104	
9	Telephone: (405) 875-6110	
10	Email: grodriguez@nrdc.org	
11	Attorneys for Petitioners/Plaintiffs	
12	IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA	
13	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LO	OS ANCELES CENTRAL DISTRICT
14	IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF LC	35 ANGELES – CENTRAL DISTRICT
15	NATURAL RESOURCES DEFENSE	Case No.
16	COUNCIL, INC., SAN PEDRO AND PENINSULA HOMEOWNERS	
	COALITION, SAN PEDRO PENINSULA	NOTICE RE: PREPARATION OF
17	HOMEOWNERS UNITED, INC., EAST YARD COMMUNITIES FOR	RECORD OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS
18	ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, and COALITION FOR CLEAN AIR, INC., non-	
19	profit corporations	
20	Petitioners/Plaintiffs,	
21	V.	
22	CITY OF LOS ANGELES, PORT OF LOS	
23	ANGELES, LOS ANGELES BOARD OF ANGELES, and LOS ANGELES BOARD OF	
24	HARBOR COMMISSIONERS, public entities	
25	Respondents/Defendants.	
26		
27	CHINA SHIPPING (NORTH AMERICA) HOLDING CO., LTD, a Delaware	
	corporation; CHINA COSCO SHIPPING	
28	CORPORATION LIMITED, a corporation;	1

NOTICE RE: PREPARATION OF RECORD OF ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEEDINGS

COSCO SHIPPING (NORTH AMERICA), 1 INC., a California corporation; WEST BASIN CONTAINER TERMINAL LLC, a Delaware 2 corporation; and DOES 1 THROUGH 20, inclusive, 3 Real Parties in Interest. 4 5 TO THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES: 6 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21167.6(a), 7 Petitioners/Plaintiffs Natural Resources Defense Council, San Pedro and Peninsula Homeowners 8 Coalition, San Pedro Peninsula Homeowners United, Inc., East Yard Communities For 9 Environmental Justice, and Coalition for Clean Air request that Respondents/Defendants City of 10 Los Angeles, Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners, and Port of Los Angeles certify the 11 record of administrative proceedings before it concerning the Board of Harbor Commissioners' 12 October 8, 2019 certification of the China Shipping 2019 SEIR and approval of the Revised 13 Project, and the August 12, 2020 decision of the Los Angeles City Council to deny 14 Petitioners/Plaintiffs' appeal of the BHC's decision. 15 Pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21167.6(b)(2) and Los Angeles County 16 Superior Court Local Rule 3.232(d)(2)(i), Petitioners/Plaintiffs hereby notify 17 Respondents/Defendants that they are considering electing to prepare the record of administrative 18 proceedings, subject to certification by Respondents/Defendants. Pursuant to Local Rule 19 3.232(d)(1)-(2), Petitioners/Plaintiffs will make their final determination about whether to elect to 20 prepare the record after receiving Respondents/Defendants' preliminary notification of the 21 estimated cost, estimated range for the number of pages, customary charge for copying per page, 22 and any other estimated reasonable costs that will be charged for a copy of the record. 23 24 Date: September 16, 2020 Respectfully submitted, 25 26 27 Gonzalo E. Rodriguez Gonzalez 28 Attorney for Petitioners/Plaintiffs

#### PROOF OF SERVICE

I, Gonzalo E. Rodriguez Gonzalez, declare that I am over the age of 18 and not a party to this action. I am employed in the County of San Francisco, State of California. My business address is: 111 Sutter St. Fl. 21, San Francisco, California, which is located in the county where the mailing described below occurred. On September 16, 2020, I served true copies of the following document(s) described as:

- Notice of Commencement of CEQA Litigation Challenging the Certification of the China Shipping 2019 Supplemental Environmental Impact Report and Revised Project
- Notice Re: Preparation of Record of Administrative Proceedings

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City of Los Angeles 200 N. Spring St. Los Angeles, CA 90012

Los Angeles City Council 200 N. Spring St., Suite 360 Los Angeles, CA 90012

Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners 425 South Palos Verdes St. San Pedro, CA 90731

Port of Los Angeles 425 South Palos Verdes St. San Pedro, CA 90731

I declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that the foregoing is true and correct. Executed on September 16, 2020, at San Francisco, California.

Gonzalo E. Rodriguez Gonzalez

Printed Name

Signature