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Homeland Security

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## **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.

