

Port of Oakland turning basins proposed project reaches key milestone

The comment period ends, and the next phase begins

The **Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Navigation Study** has reached another milestone. The comment period for the second draft of the Integrated Feasibility Report (IFR) closed on June 16, 2023. The end of the comment period signals the beginning of the next phase of the proposed project.

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) study began May 31, 2022 and is expected to be available later this year for public review and comment. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is the turning basins project lead, and the Port of Oakland is closely collaborating with USACE as the local sponsor and CEQA lead agency.

“The Port is pleased to be moving the proposed project along in partnership with the USACE to meet the demands of an evolving shipping industry and delivering on the Port’s continued focus on improving goods movement efficiencies and environmental stewardship,” said Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes.

The proposed project includes widening both turning basins to accommodate vessels up to 1,310 feet in length. The benefits of widening the turning basins include:

- Safer navigation for big ships already calling Oakland;
- Improved waterway operational efficiencies resulting in more efficient goods movement;
- Reduced delays and ship idling time at anchorage;
- Improved flexibility to connect to shorepower at dock;
- Reduced vessel emissions; and,
- Reduced environmental impact per container. → 03



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Port of Oakland adds geothermal to clean energy portfolio

The Port of Oakland's Board of Port Commissioners recently agreed to purchase up to \$13.5 million worth of geothermal energy over 12 years. Geothermal offers a clean, reliable and 100% renewable energy source that will be used by the Port and its tenants at the seaport and airport.

The geothermal energy will come from Geysers Power Company (**Geysers**) facilities, about 75 miles north of San Francisco near Middletown. The geysers area is one of the largest and cleanest geothermal steam fields in the world and the largest complex of geothermal power plants in the world with thirteen facilities along the Sonoma and Lake County border.

Geothermal power is energy derived from the heat of the earth's core. Wells averaging 8,500 feet deep (the deepest is over 2 miles) tap into naturally occurring steam field reservoirs below the earth's surface which are being harnessed to make clean, green, renewable energy.

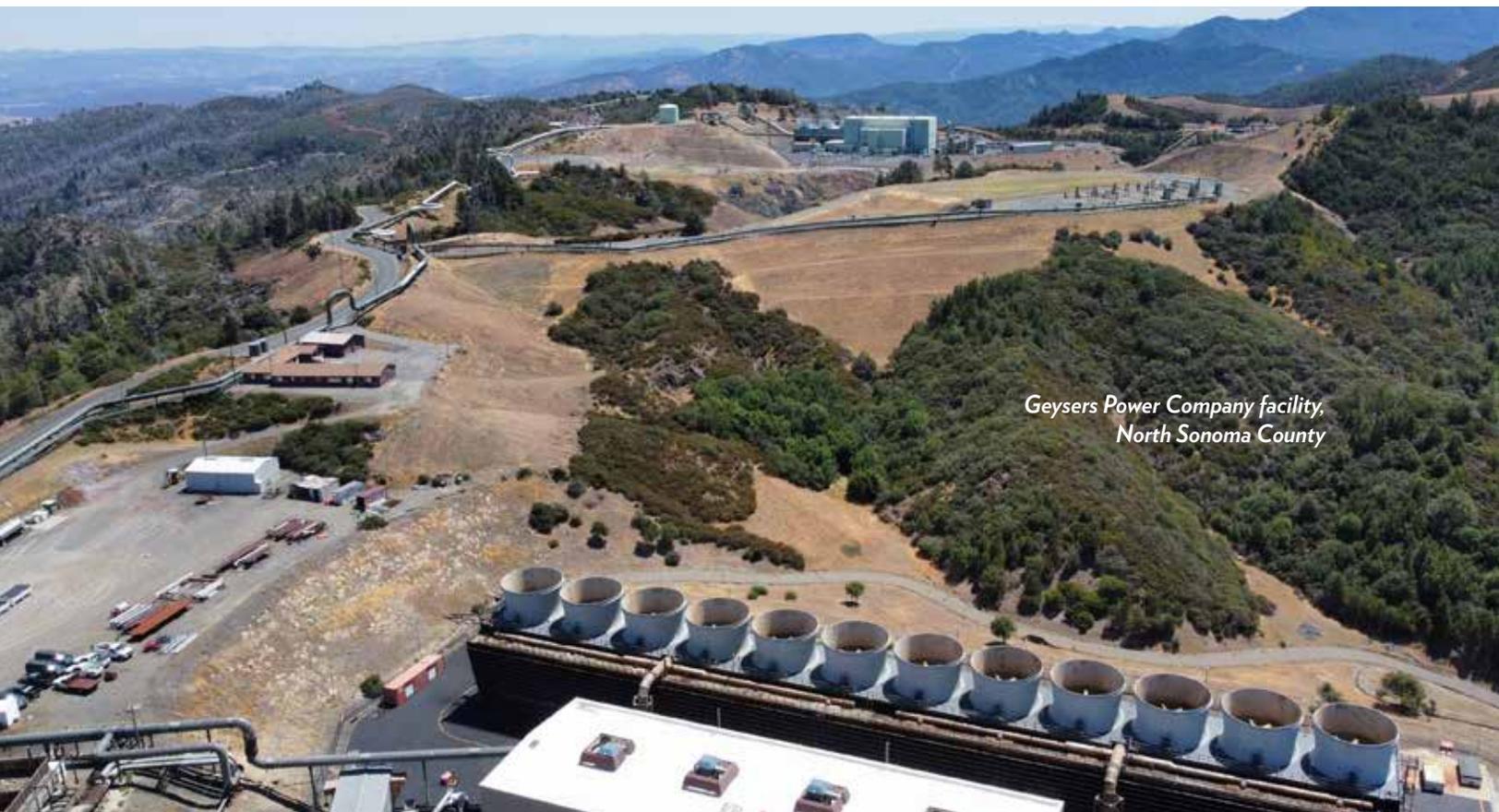
"Operating an electric utility in California today is challenging with weather events, wildfires and droughts that impede availability of power. However, this purchase and the Port's mix of power resources demonstrates our commitment to providing cleaner energy, reliable power and rates lower than surrounding utilities," says Carpenter.

The geothermal energy purchase begins on January 1, 2025 and runs through December 31, 2036, and will average around \$1,125,000 per year. Geothermal will account for about 10% per year of our **overall energy portfolio** to power the Port and its customers. Port Utilities derive their primary sources of sustainable energy from a range of options prioritizing geothermal, biomass, solar, and wind energy.

"This contract is significant because it is a new energy deal for the Port of Oakland—not an extension of an old one—that helps enhance our power supply portfolio with another fully renewable natural resource," says Port of Oakland Utilities Manager Jared Carpenter.

The Geysers has a net generating capacity of about 725 megawatts of electricity—enough to power 725,000 homes, or a city the size of San Francisco.

For more about geothermal energy and the Geysers: <https://geysers.com/geothermal>. 



*Geysers Power Company facility,
North Sonoma County*



The Port's efforts towards zero emissions are receiving international attention. Dutch (above) and Swedish (left) delegations visited the Port this month to exchange presentations/comments/discussion and tour the seaport to learn about zero emissions programs.

Port of Oakland Turning Basins *from page 1*

The Port of Oakland is also on a road to zero emissions, making infrastructure changes at the docks to make it easier for ships of various lengths to connect to shore power so vessels can plug in to the Port's electrical grid.

Both the Inner and Outer Harbor turning basins are proposed to be widened to accommodate vessels carrying up to 19,000 TEUs and up to 1,310 feet in length. Ten acres have been reserved at Howard Property to expand the Inner Harbor turning basin. Public outreach has been integrated throughout the process. The first public engagement meeting was held in August 2021. CEQA public scoping meetings were conducted on June 14 and June 15, 2022, and most recently public meetings soliciting input on the revised IFR were held on May 10 and June 14, 2023.

The feasibility study process is slated to conclude in June 2024, at which time the engineering design and pre-construction phase could begin. That phase is estimated to end in 2026. Construction could begin in 2027 and conclude in 2029. ●





Port of Oakland free harbor tours

More than 200 people, including environmental group members, enjoyed the Port's June educational harbor tour. The next harbor tour takes place July 21, 2023, with registration opening Monday, July 3, 2023 at 8 p.m. (PDT). Visit our website for more information. [HERE](#). ●



Port of Oakland loaded container volume up third month in a row May 2023 full cargo increased 18% compared to February

Port of Oakland full containers (both imports and exports) in May 2023 were up by about 18 percent compared to February 2023.

Although Oakland loaded cargo TEUs (twenty-foot containers) have been climbing for three months, the loaded container volume remains below last year, registering a 19% decline in the first five months compared to the same period in 2022. The spike in goods movement from high consumer spending during the pandemic lingered into 2022 pushing volumes higher in the earlier part of last year.

Total full TEUs declined compared to May of 2022, posting a 22.7% drop, with 134,398 TEUs. Full imports fell 28.2% with 70,887 TEUs processed by the Port, versus 98,792 TEUs in May 2022. Importers continued to favor East Coast and Gulf Coast ports last month due to the remaining uncertainty around contract negotiations between the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) and Pacific Maritime Association (PMA).

“Last week’s positive news on the tentative agreement between the ILWU and PMA will restore shipper’s confidence in West

Coast ports as they are the most efficient gateway for goods moving between Asia and the U.S.,” said Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes.

Full exports registered a 15.4% decline, with 63,511 TEUs transiting port facilities, compared to 75,067 TEUs in May 2022. They are down 9% year-to-date compared to the same period in 2022. [→ 05](#)

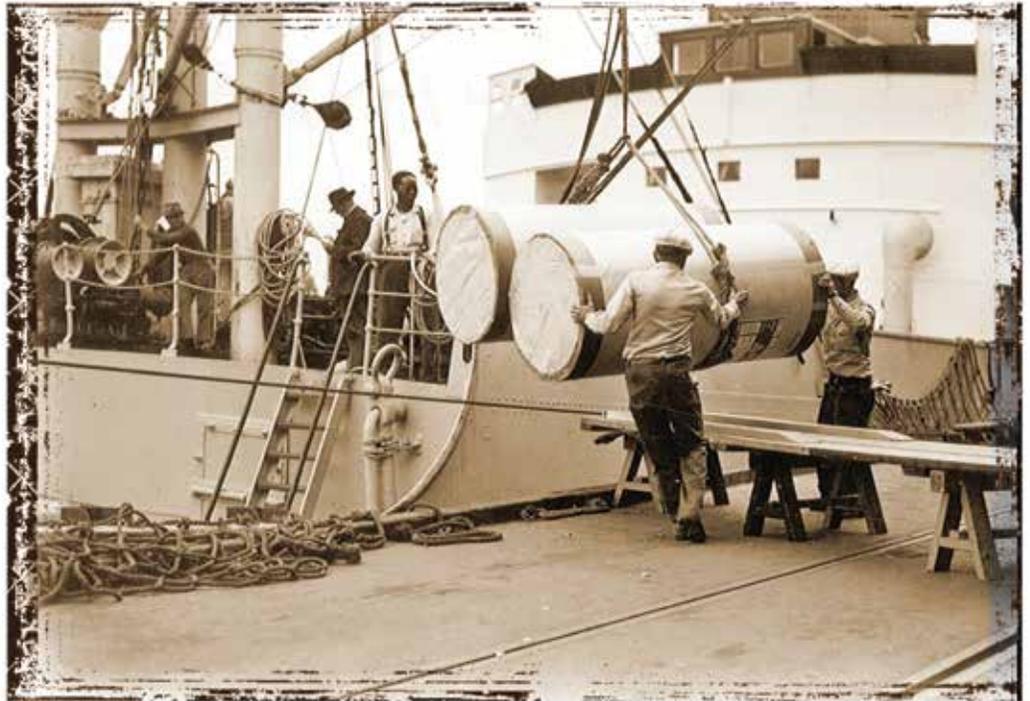


May Cargo Stats *from page 4*

Exporters may be moving less volume than they typically do, since shipping schedules have been less reliable than prior to the pandemic. Also, consumers may be more cautious about spending with rising food costs. Additionally, there is a long-term trend of shipping less U.S. recyclables to China.

Empty exports dropped 19.5%, with 28,315 TEUs handled by the Port in May 2023, as opposed to 35,188 TEUs in May 2022. Empty imports rose 3.8%, transiting 15,836 TEUs in May 2023, versus 15,254 TEUs in May 2022.

Link to Port of Oakland container volume data:
<https://www.oaklandseaport.com/performancefacts-figures/> ●



Maritime Moments

LONGSHOREMEN HANDLING ROLLS OF NEWSPRINT, 1946. PAPER WAS ONE OF THE PORT'S MAJOR IMPORTS. HUNDREDS OF TONS OF NEWSPRINT PAPER FROM THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST WERE CONSUMED WEEKLY BY EAST BAY NEWSPAPERS.

INDUSTRY RESOURCE LINKS:

- ▲ Oakland Portal
- ▲ Oakland Seaport Map
- ▲ Ocean Carrier Services
- ▲ Shipping Forms & Permits
- ▲ Shore Power & Vessel Commissioning
- ▲ Trucker Resources
- ▲ TWIC
- ▲ Maritime Services Directory