



Office of the Los Angeles City Attorney
Hydee Feldstein Soto

REPORT NO. R25-0558
NOV 10, 2025

REPORT RE:

**DRAFT ORDINANCE AMENDING PORT OF LOS ANGELES
TARIFF NO. 4 – 2025 GENERAL RATE INCREASE**

The Honorable City Council
of the City of Los Angeles
Room 395, City Hall
200 North Spring Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

Honorable Members:

This Office has prepared and now transmits for your consideration the enclosed draft ordinance, approved as to form and legality. Pursuant to Charter Section 653(a), this draft ordinance would approve Board of Harbor Commissioners Order No. 25-7409 amending the Port of Los Angeles Tariff No. 4, operative on December 1, 2025, by implementing a General Rate Increase (GRI) of 2.5% to all rates, tolls, and charges, except for Pilotage Rates, Passenger Fees, Space Assignment Rates, Parking Charges, Clean Air Action Plan Fees, and Various Incentives.

Charter Findings

On November 6, 2025, pursuant to Los Angeles City Charter Sections 652(a), 652(c) and 653(a), the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners (Board) adopted Order No. 25-7409, approved the enclosed draft ordinance and recommended that the City Council adopt it. Under Charter Section 653(a), BOHC Order No. 25-7409 must be approved by the City Council, by ordinance, in order to become effective.



Background

The California Association of Port Authorities (CAPA), of which the Port of Los Angeles (Port) is a member, adopted an annual general rate increase (GRI) methodology for tariffs based on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' West Region Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U). The proposed GRI for this year, as announced by CAPA to its members, is 2.5%, to be operative on December 1, 2025. The proposed increase of 2.5% was the increase in the CPI-U for the 12-month period ending December 2024. The Board approved the 2.5% increase for all Port Tariff No. 4 (Tariff) rated tariff items, with certain specified exceptions.

The objective of the Tariff amendment is to implement a GRI for almost all rates in the Tariff, except for certain exempt items. The purpose of GRIs is to ensure Port charges for shipping services keep pace with inflation.

Past GRI actions: On June 6, 2024, the Board approved Order No. 24-7370, which was approved by City Council Ordinance No. 188366, adopting a 3.6% GRI through CAPA, effective July 1, 2024. Prior to that, the Port implemented GRIs in the Tariff in calendar year (CY) 2004, 2005, 2022, and 2023.

Summary of Ordinance Provisions

The proposed ordinance, to become operative on December 1, 2025, amends Port Tariff No. 4 by increasing almost all tariff rates by 2.5%: Section Four "Dockage", Items 450 & 480; Section Five "Wharfage", Items 550-001 through 550- 801; Section Seven "Free Time, Wharf Demurrage, and Wharf Storage", Items 780 and 790; Section Nine "Container Cranes" Item 900; Section Eleven "Charges for Occupancy of Office Space, etc. In Transit Sheds and on Wharves and Wharf Premises", Item 1100; Section Twelve "Water and Electricity", Item 1200; Section Fifteen "Public Landings", Items 1525 & 1530; Section Eighteen "General Rules and Regulations – Miscellaneous", Item 1802; Section Nineteen "Commercial Fishing Vessel", Items 1910 & 1930; and Section Twenty-Four "Recreational Courtesy Docks", Items 2425 & 2430.

The proposed ordinance contains certain specified exemptions from the GRI increase:

- Item No. 330 – Pilotage. Pilotage rates are currently on a 5-year rate increase schedule (approved by the Board in April 2021).
- Item No. 600 – Passenger Fees. Scheduled to be increased on July 1, 2024, (approved by the Board in August 2023).
- Item No. 605 – Alternative Maritime Power (AMP) System Cost Passenger Fees. This rate is still pending Finance analysis, and may be updated in a future tariff update if it is determined that passenger fee increase is necessary to cover the cost of cruise ship AMP power.

- Item No. 810 – Space Assignments. Rates were recently reset and increased based on a CPI level going forward (approved by the Board in October 2020).
- Item No. 1300 – Parking Charges. On a separate rate increase schedule.
- Item No. 2040 – Clean Air Action Plan. Permit fees are not part of the GRI.
- Item Nos. 2300-2340 – Various incentives. Not part of a GRI.
- Item No. 2505 – Additional Tariff Requirements. Item No. 2505 is a new tariff item within a new Section, Section 25 – Emissions Control Strategy Charges (a Temporary and Permanent Order was approved by the Board in February 2025). Charges in Item No. 2505 shall be exempt from any general rate increase, which from time to time may be implemented through periodic adjustments. This does not prohibit the adjustment of additional tariff requirements through amendments to this Section. Changes in this new tariff item will be increased based on a percentage or CPI level going forward.

CEQA Findings

The draft ordinance approves an Order of the Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners amending the Port of Los Angeles Tariff No. 4 by increasing tariff rates and charges by 2.5%. As an administrative activity and an activity involving the modification of a fee for the use of existing municipal facilities involving negligible or no expansion of use, the Harbor Department has determined that the proposed action is categorically exempt from the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in accordance with Article III, Class 1(31) of the Los Angeles City CEQA Guidelines.

Increase in Existing Fees

We note that, because this ordinance would effectuate increases in existing fees, notice of its proposed adoption should be given in accordance with the provisions of California Government Code Sections 66018 and 6062a. Those sections of State law require that prior to adoption of a new or increased fee a public hearing be held and notice of that hearing be published in a newspaper with two publications at least five days apart over a ten-day period. The notice period begins the first day of publication, and there must be at least five days intervening between the first and the second publications, not counting the dates of publication.

Council Rule 38 Referral

The Harbor Department is the proposing department, and the Tariff amendments were discussed and considered with Harbor Department management and staff present in a full public hearing of the Board of Harbor Commissioners on November 6, 2025.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Assistant City Attorney John T. Driscoll at (310) 732-7731. A member of this Office will be available when you consider this matter to answer questions you may have.

Sincerely,

HYDEE FELDSTEIN SOTO, City Attorney

By 

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MD:JTD:mc
Transmittal