March 24, 2020

To General Contractors Leading Active Construction on Port of Seattle Projects:

Keeping construction moving forward is important to the Port and we appreciate your continued efforts during these challenging times. Yesterday's Governor's directive identified the Port's airport and maritime transportation gateways, construction projects and activities related thereto, as essential facilities. The Port of Seattle has many key gateway infrastructure construction projects underway. We anticipate that all the essential projects in the active construction phase will continue.

The Governor's order also re-emphasized that contractors must follow “social distancing and sanitation measures established by the United States Department of Labor’s Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for COVID-19 at https://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3990.pdf and the Washington State Department of Health Workplace and Employer Resources & Recommendations at https://www.doh.wa.gov/Coronavirus/workplace.” This is a means and methods issue that is the responsibility of your firm, and we are aware of good guidance and recommendations that have been put out by the AGC, among others. The Port asks the prime general contractors to augment their safety and response plans related to COVID-19 to include additional actions undertaken by the contractor to provide safe project sites for its workers, and to provide such plans to the Port by noon, Friday March 27, 2020, for its awareness. Our collective priority continues to be ensuring the health, safety, and well-being of all individuals, including our employees and those of any subcontractors, suppliers and other individuals that may be on, or come in contact with, the project site.

The Port also has information on its public webpage regarding the Port’s response to this emergency as well as information that it has passed along to its own employees and tenants. You may find that information helpful as you communicate with your employees and make decisions about the Work.

The Port will continue to support construction as reasonable during this public health crisis. If the crisis causes more adjustments to its construction program, the Port will transmit additional information to prime general contractors. We ask that prime general contractors continue to communicate with the Port through current channels including project Resident Engineers. If you determine that proceeding with the Work under your contract is not feasible due to the impacts of COVID-19, please notify your Port representative immediately. The Port will address such circumstances under the applicable provisions of our contract.

To the extent that your team includes employees who may not need to be present on construction sites to deliver their services, they should telecommute if it is possible for them to work effectively by computer and phone. Port staff are telecommuting to the extent possible while balancing on-site needs of contractors for inspection, safety, testing, utility coordination, drug testing, etc.

Thank you again for working together with us to meet this challenge. Again, please direct any question you may have to your Resident Engineer.

David Soike
Chief Operating Officer