The Long Beach City Hall and Port Headquarters building are the defining elements of the Long Beach Civic Center Master Plan. SOM designed the master plan to revitalize 22 acres of the city's downtown area by creating a vibrant, mixed-use district and reactivating the historic Lincoln Park.

The new City Hall and Port Headquarters are designed to symbolize transparency and accessibility. The buildings have long, narrow floor plates with split cores that link interior spaces, resulting in large, open office plans that provide ample exterior views. An elliptical-shaped Council Chambers, shared by the City Council and Port Commissioners, is located within City Hall and prominently anchors the west end of the Civic Center plaza. The exterior curtain walls are composed of alternating panels of floor-to-ceiling glass and solid panels. The height of the vision panels allows daylight to penetrate into the depth of the floors.

Enhanced seismic performance, including forward-thinking reoccupancy and functionality goals, was cleverly engineered and designed using staggered door openings in concrete shear walls and fully anchored MEP components inside the raised floor plenum to minimize damage and downtime for the new Long Beach City Hall & Port Headquarters. Both buildings have efficient post-tensioned concrete flat plate framing systems that offer flexibility for office renovations in combination with a raised floor distribution system. Environmental performance was also a key consideration in the design. The Port Headquarters building is targeting LEED Platinum while City Hall is anticipated to achieve LEED Gold. The two buildings feature energy efficient, under-floor air conditioning systems that avoid the need for air ducts and mechanical equipment in the ceiling. This allows for higher finished ceiling heights and the ability to expose the ceiling to the structure for increased natural light.

Long Beach Civic Center City Hall & Port Headquarters

Long Beach, California

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