

 **THE PORT OF
LONG BEACH** NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION * 925 HARBOR PLAZA * P.O. BOX 570 * LONG BEACH CA 90801

**HARBOR COMMISSION SUPPORTS AIR QUALITY ACCORD
Agreement Would Reduce Air Emissions From Ships**

Jan. 21, 2005

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has approved a resolution encouraging the U. S. Senate to ratify an international agreement that would lead to significant reductions of harmful air emissions from ocean-going vessels.

At the request of Commissioner Mario Cordero, the five-member governing board of the Port of Long Beach voted unanimously on Jan. 18 to urge Senate passage of an amendment to the International Convention on the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, or MARPOL (Marine Pollution) Convention.

The amendment establishes limits on vessel air emissions, sets standards for cleaner-burning marine fuels, and details cleaner standards for all new marine engines.

The trucks, trains and ships at the Port of Long Beach have been identified as major sources of air pollution in Southern California. Reduction of these harmful air emissions is a prime goal of the Port's Healthy Harbor Initiative and the Port's proposed "Green" environmental policy. These programs address air and water quality impacts within the Port with a comprehensive environmental plan.

"While the Port of Long Beach cannot mandate international air quality standards for ships, we can make our views known to those who can," said Harbor Commission President John R. Calhoun. "The Senate's approval of this international agreement is in the best interest of the Port and the community that we serve."

The MARPOL Convention is the main international convention covering prevention of marine environmental pollution by ships. The amendment under consideration by the Senate was adopted by the United Nations in 1997. U.S. officials signed the amendment in 1998 but the Senate has yet to ratify it. The amendment goes into effect May 19, 2005 and does not require U. S. approval. Fifteen countries representing much of the world's ocean-going vessels have already ratified the amendment.

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