

 **THE PORT OF
LONG BEACH** NEWS RELEASE

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**PORT INSTALLS NEW SHIP LOADER
Project Completes Programs to Reduce Pet Coke Dust**

April 1, 2004

Culminating a major air quality improvement project, the Port of Long Beach has installed and commissioned a new \$9 million ship loader at its Pier G bulk cargo terminal, completing a series of projects in compliance with state and local requirements to control petroleum coke dust.

“This is a major milestone in the Port’s efforts to improve air quality,” said Long Beach Harbor Commission President John Hancock. “I want to thank our customers, Port staff and the other government agencies in helping us to control this problem. Thanks to their efforts, we have significantly reduced the coke dust coming from Port facilities.”

Petroleum coke is a coal-like carbon byproduct of the oil refining process. One of the Port’s leading export commodities, pet coke is shipped overseas where it is used as an industrial fuel. But in transporting coke from the refinery to ships, black dust particles have escaped into the air, settling on roadways, cars, boats, patio furniture and throughout the waterfront.

As the Port has implemented coke control measures in recent years, the amount of pet coke found in particulate samples collected at the Downtown Marina has dropped dramatically, from 21 percent in 1996 to between 3 to 8 percent currently.

Under the requirements of the South Coast Air Quality Management District’s amended Rule 1158 and Assemblymember Alan Lowenthal’s State Assembly Bill 1775, the Port and its customers eliminated uncovered storage, increased street sweeping, improved housekeeping, renovated and added enclosures to conveyor belts and installed truck washers. The Port also paved and rebuilt a bulk-cargo rail yard.

The last of the projects was the replacement of an old ship loader with a larger ship loader at Pier G. The new ship loader is able to reach directly into the hold of today’s larger vessels, minimizing the escape of coke dust.

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