

 **THE PORT OF
LONG BEACH** NEWS RELEASE

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

**NEWEST COMMISSIONERS GREETED BY HARBOR BOARD
ACTA chief Hankla and attorney Cordero take seats**

July 7, 2003

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has welcomed two new members to its ranks. On Monday, July 7, former Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority chief executive James C. Hankla and attorney Mario Cordero began their six-year terms on the five-member port governing board.

The Harbor Commission sets port policy and approves business transactions, including the assignment of leases and the awarding of construction contracts.

Hankla and Cordero fill seats vacated by Carmen O. Perez and Roy E. Hearrean, who each completed 12 years of service on the board – the maximum allowed under the City Charter. Long Beach Mayor Beverly O'Neill nominated Hankla and Cordero for the board and the City Council confirmed the appointments.

Hankla joins the board after a lengthy career in public service and notable success in the transportation industry. Hankla was Long Beach City Manager for 12 years, retiring in 1998 to direct construction of the \$2.4 billion Alameda Corridor freight rail expressway. The project, built to speed freight between the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and the transcontinental rail yards east of downtown Los Angeles, was completed last year. On accepting his appointment to the Harbor Board, Hankla resigned from ACTA.

Cordero is a senior associate in the Long Beach-based law firm Adelson, Testan & Brundo, and for a decade has been a political science instructor at Long Beach City College.

Hankla and Cordero join current Harbor Commissioners John Hancock, John Calhoun, and Doris Topsy-Elvord. Hancock, president of Bancap Investment Group, was appointed to the commission in 1995 and re-appointed in 2001. He currently serves as the Commission president. Calhoun, who retired after three four-year terms as Long Beach city attorney, was appointed to the commission in 1999. He now serves as the Commission vice-president. Topsy-Elvord, a former Long Beach city councilwoman who represented the 6th District for two terms, was appointed to the commission in March and now serves as Commission secretary.

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