



NEWS RELEASE

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PORT TO STUDY ELECTRIFICATION OF SHIPS AT BERTH Moving Forward with Air Quality Improvement Program

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Moving forward with a continued commitment to enhance air quality, a committee of the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners on Monday, April 14, authorized a comprehensive study on the feasibility of ships using electric power rather than internal combustion engines while at berth.

The board's Development Committee selected Environ International to conduct the study, which will analyze a wide range of factors such as vessel power demands, equipment needs, estimated costs and potential emission reductions. Results of the \$350,000 study, which includes consultant and port staff time, are expected in one year.

"Emissions from ships at berth are a major source of air pollution, and using electricity to power those ships holds great potential as a way to reduce those emissions," said Richard D. Steinke, executive director of the Port of Long Beach. "This study is consistent with our ongoing practice of operating the Port of Long Beach in an environmentally friendly manner."

The shore-side electrification of ships, called "cold-ironing", is part of Healthy Harbor Long Beach, the port's comprehensive initiative to improve air quality, water quality and wildlife habitat through existing and new programs.

According to the South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), approximately one-third of all vessel emissions in the region occur while the vessels are at berth. While in port, the vessels typically shut off their main engines but use auxiliary diesel and steam engines to produce power for refrigeration, lighting, pumping and other ship functions. Replacing auxiliary engines with on-shore electric power, therefore, could produce significant reductions in emissions.

Healthy Harbor Long Beach was launched in March with the introduction of a comprehensive Air Quality Improvement Program that calls for use of alternative fuels in port- and tenant-owned vehicles, installation of pollution control devices on equipment and a wide variety of other strategies to reduce diesel emissions resulting from port operations. The full Board of Harbor Commissioners approved the program Monday.

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