THE PORT OF LONG BEACH NEWS RELEASE

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PORT PARTNERS WITH COALITION
Warehouses to be Encouraged to Extend Hours

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The Port of Long Beach has initiated a partnership with the Waterfront Coalition, an organization of major U.S. importers, to promote greater off-hour use of the existing transportation system including ports, warehouses and roadways.

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners voted unanimously on Monday, March 3, to approve a $10,000 initial grant to support the Gate Hours Pilot Project with the Waterfront Coalition.

"The message from Washington is that we must fully utilize our existing infrastructure before we can expect federal dollars to expand the Long Beach (710) Freeway," said port Executive Director Richard Steinke. The port has joined Southland communities in lobbying Congress to fund major 710 Freeway improvements to ease traffic congestion.

"Our new partnership with the Waterfront Coalition will ensure that all stakeholders are cooperating to wring the greatest efficiencies out of the existing transportation network," said Steinke.

The trucking industry has long requested that the ports' marine terminals remain open longer hours, beyond the current 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. In the past, when terminals have opened during off-peak hours, there has not been sufficient truck traffic to make it economical. One problem has been that local warehouses and distribution centers have not been open in sufficient numbers during off-hours to support extended hours in the port.

The Waterfront Coalition project will survey warehouses and distribution centers in Southern California to identify companies that are able and willing to receive and deliver containers during off-peak hours. The goal is to generate sufficient truck trips to support second and third shift operations in the ports.

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