



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT: ART WONG, Media Relations Manager

E-Mail: wong@polb.com

Website: www.polb.com

January 18, 2001

(562) 590-4123

Port Sets Record With 4.6 Million Containers

The Port of Long Beach broke its record for yearly container cargo volume, as its shipping terminals handled the equivalent of 4,600,787 twenty-foot-long container units in 2000, a 4.4 percent increase over 1999. Led by steady import gains and rebounding exports, the port surpassed last year's record 4,408,480 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

(TEUs are a standard measure for the steel cargo containers commonly used interchangeably on ships, trucks and trains.)

"We're pleased with both our import and export numbers," said Richard D. Steinke, the port's executive director. "The U.S. appetite for imports remained strong, and Asia continues to rebound.

"We congratulate our customers - the shipping lines, terminal operators, trucking companies, importers and exporters - and waterfront workers for their tremendous job in moving the growing volumes of trade smoothly. We anticipate equal or stronger numbers in 2001.

" In calendar 2000, the number of imported cargo containers grew by 6 percent to nearly 2.5 million TEUs. The imported containers were mostly filled with many of the products found at shopping malls: clothing, toys, shoes, consumer electronics and home furnishings made in Asia. The number of exported containers climbed by 5.6 percent to more than 1 million TEUs - the highest level since 1997 when Asia's economic crisis began. Export containers were loaded largely with raw materials including wastepaper, plastics, hay and cotton.

The port ended the year with 351,390 TEUs in December, a 3.8 percent decrease from the December 1999 total when fears of possible Y2K disruptions boosted shipments. This December's imports fell 2.7 percent to 180,631 TEUs, and exports declined 8.5 percent to 79,351 TEUs.

Port of Long Beach Container Traffic (TEUs*)

	LOADED		TOTAL	TOTAL	TOTAL
	Inbound	Outbound	LOADED	EMPTIES	CONTAINERS
Dec-00	180,631	79,351	259,982	91,408	351,390
Dec-99	185,572	86,697	272,269	92,971	365,240
% Change	-2.7%	-8.5%	-4.5%	-1.7%	-3.8%
Jan-00	178,672	80,091	258,763	80,380	339,143
Feb-00	177,362	81,893	259,255	75,961	335,216
Mar-00	178,489	97,871	276,360	74,404	350,764
Apr-00	200,724	91,014	291,738	74,727	366,465
May-00	218,016	97,770	315,786	90,986	406,772
Jun-00	203,004	83,305	286,309	88,586	374,895
Jul-00	224,865	86,874	311,739	98,240	409,979
Aug-00	236,969	86,012	322,981	111,760	434,741
Sep-00	208,880	80,875	289,755	97,838	387,593
Oct-00	235,511	88,541	324,052	108,880	432,932
Nov-00	213,065	90,756	303,821	107,076	410,897
Dec-00	180,631	79,351	259,982	91,408	351,390
Jan'00-Dec '00	2,456,188	1,044,353	3,500,541	1,100,246	4,600,787
Jan '99 - Dec'99	2,317,050	989,221	3,306,271	1,102,209	4,408,480
% Change	6.0%	5.6%	5.9%	-0.2%	4.4%

*TEUs: 20-foot equivalent units or 20-foot-long cargo container