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**Port Supports Emodal Appointment System
To Decrease Terminal Traffic**

With an eye toward developing new ways to efficiently move more cargo through its terminals, the Port of Long Beach is supporting the area's leading on-line intermodal support company in the development of a web-based truckers' appointment system.

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners voted Monday, Jan. 22, to contribute \$75,000 to Long Beach-based eModal for the company's development of software that will allow truckers and terminal operators to set up specific times through eModal's web site for the delivery or pickup of containers. The scheduling system will improve efficiency and decrease congestion at the terminals.

With roughly 190,000 containers being tracked at any given time, eModal provides a single, on-line point of contact for multiple container terminals and truckers to find a variety of information, including container status, vessel schedules, terminal locations and truck driver lists. EModal's web address is www.emodal.com

"In the future, we must move more cargo through limited terminal space. An appointment system will provide our terminals with a tool to manage their traffic more efficiently and increase throughput," said Don Wylie, the port's managing director of maritime services. "EModal provides an excellent platform to accommodate this. The Port of Long Beach is proud to support eModal in developing new technology for the benefit of the entire industry."

The appointment system, called "eModal Scheduler," will allow users to notify a terminal of a preferred time to pick up or deliver a container. The terminal will agree or assign another time, which can be accepted or not. The trucking company will then be given an eModal Scheduler number. The Scheduler will be accessible only on eModal's web site.

Founded in October 1999, eModal began with two terminals -- one at the Port of Long Beach and the

other at the Port of Los Angeles. Today, eModal provides intermodal support for 25 terminals at six ports on both coasts. The company expects to serve 40 terminals by the end of the first quarter of 2001.

"The Port of Long Beach has been very proactive in its efforts to increase efficiency at its terminals," said eModal President John Cushing. "The port's support of the eModal Scheduler, a tool designed to help terminals and trucking companies optimally plan for greater productivity and velocity, will allow for this goal to be reached."