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CONTACT: ART WONG, Media Relations Manager
E-Mail: wong@polb.com
Website: www.polb.com
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(562) 590-4123

Surge In Imports Breaks Container Cargo Record

Record-setting imports propelled the Port of Long Beach to its best month ever with total container volumes jumping in July to the equivalent of 409,979 20-foot container units, a 17.8 percent increase over July 1999. Long Beach's previous monthly best was May's 406,772 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

"July's totals continue a trend of import and export gains but with stronger numbers than we've seen," said Don Wylie, the port's managing director of maritime services. "The U.S. economy remains strong. American consumers continue to buy Asia products. Our increases in July are a reflection of the jump we expect during the peak shipping season."

The July-through-October period is usually Long Beach's busiest, boosted by shipments of imported back-to-school and end-of-the-year holiday clothing, toys, shoes and consumer electronics products made in Asia.

Long Beach kicked off the peak shipping season with the number of imported containers climbing to 224,865 TEUs, a 19.2 percent gain over July 1999. The July import total is Long Beach's best ever.

In July, the number of exported containers increased 17.2 percent to 86,874 TEUs, reflecting the continuing economic recovery in Asia.

The number of empty containers, nearly all of them shipped back to Asia to be reloaded with cargo, increased 15.3 percent to 98,259 TEUs - the highest empty container total in nine months.

Port of Long Beach Container Traffic (TEUs*)

	LOADED		TOTAL LOADED	TOTAL EMPTIES	TOTAL CONTAINERS
	Inbound	Outbound			
Jul-00	224,865	86,874	311,739	98,240	409,979
Jul-99	188,586	74,155	262,741	85,220	347,961
% Change	19.2%	17.2%	18.6%	15.3%	17.8%
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
Jan-Jul '00	1,381,132	618,818	1,999,950	583,284	2,583,234
Jan-Jul '99	1,284,003	564,085	1,848,088	599,416	2,447,504
% Change	7.6%	9.7%	8.2%	-2.7%	5.5%

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