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CONTACT: Kim Kabar, Public Affairs Manager

E-Mail: [kabar@polb.com](mailto:kabar@polb.com)

Website: [www.polb.com](http://www.polb.com)

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(562) 590-4124

## PORT WELCOMES LATIN AMERICAN SHIPPING SERVICE

It's bienvenidos time at the Port of Long Beach where a new consortium of shipping lines servicing Central and South America will make its first call at the port on Sunday, June 4.

Port officials will welcome the *Maruba Trader*, a 1,500-TEU container ship operated by Argentina-based Maruba Lines, at the port's International Transportation Service (ITS) terminal. Maruba Lines recently joined forces with Americana Ships and Columbus Line, a subsidiary of Hamburg-Sud, to form AMPAC. The shipping lines will call at ports on the West Coast from Canada to South America. The Latin American ports include Mexico, Guatemala, Costa Rica, Columbia, Ecuador, Peru and Chile.

AMPAC is the second consortium to begin service recently at ITS. NYK Line and CSAV-Chilean Line's joint Latin America service made its first call to the Port of Long Beach in April.

AMPAC will offer two separate vessel services. The biweekly, Americas-only service will call at ports between Vancouver and Lirquen, Chile. The other biweekly service will operate between the Far East, Long Beach and West Coast South American ports including Guayaquil, Ecuador, and San Antonio, Chile. The overlapping schedule of these two services will provide fixed-day weekly service calls at the Port of Long Beach; Manzanillo, Mexico; Callao, Peru; and San Antonio, Chile. All other ports will be served on a fixed-day fortnightly basis.

Columbus Line is assigning two container ships, the *Columbus Mexico* and the *Columbus Pacific*, to work in tandem with Maruba's *Maruba Trader*. The three, 15,00-TEU ships each offer 150 electrical plugs for refrigerated containers. They also are equipped with on-board cranes to facilitate cargo movements in those Latin American ports with limited shoreside cranes.