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NOVEMBER EXPORTS JUMPT TO HIGHEST LEVEL IN TWO YEARS

Led by rebounding exports, the total container volume at the Port of Long Beach rose by 7.9 percent in November, compared with the same month a year ago. The equivalent of 397,301 20-foot-long container units was shipped through Long Beach – the nation’s busiest container port. November’s total was the third-highest ever for the port after only September’s 402,710 20-foot equivalent units (TEUs) and August’s 399,303 TEUs.

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

The number of export containers climbed 8.2 percent in November to 91,201 TEUs, the highest export total since November 1997’s 96,568 TEUs. The summer of 1997 marked the beginning of an economic crisis in Asia that resulted in a steep slide in exports through Long Beach.

“The November exports confirm what we’ve been saying about improvement in the Asian economies,” said Don Wylie, the port’s managing director of maritime services. “While the recovery isn’t very robust yet, the strongest exports here in two years is certainly very good news.”

Propelled by a strong holiday shopping season, the number of import containers increased 8.7 percent in November to 209,444 TEUs – the fourth-consecutive month that imports have topped 200,000 TEUs in Long Beach. Historically, the port’s holiday shipping season ended in October. But this year and last, retailers increased their last-minute orders. During the summer and fall, the port’s imports are boosted by such holiday shopping favorites as toys, clothing and consumer electronics produced in Asia.

“Some shippers also are concerned about Y2K problems, and they’re accelerating their shipments in November and December,” Wylie said.

Port of Long Beach					
Container Traffic (TEUs*)					
	LOADED		TOTAL	EMPTIES	TOTAL
	Inbound	Outbound	LOADED		CONTAINERS
Nov-99	209,444	91,201	300,645	96,656	397,301
Nov-98	192,661	84,291	276,952	91,189	368,141
% change	8.7%	8.2%	8.6%	6.0%	7.9%
Jan-99	169,397	77,676	247,073	72,239	319,312
Feb-99	172,482	80,000	252,482	71,647	324,129
Mar-99	171,913	88,699	260,612	87,362	347,974
Apr-99	181,575	77,040	258,615	81,071	339,686
May-99	205,640	87,553	293,193	101,274	394,467
Jun-99	194,410	78,962	273,372	100,603	373,975
Jul-99	188,586	74,155	262,741	85,220	347,961
Aug-99	214,709	80,581	295,290	104,015	399,305
Sep-99	219,080	82,308	301,388	101,322	402,710
Oct-99	204,242	84,349	288,591	107,829	396,420
Nov-99	209,444	91,201	300,645	96,656	397,301
Year-to-date	2,131,478	902,524	3,034,002	1,009,238	4,043,240
98 year-to-date	1,930,369	886,120	2,816,489	944,552	3,761,021
% change	10.6%	1.2%	7.6%	6.9%	7.5%
*TEUs: 20-foot equivalent units or 20-foot-long cargo container					