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**PORT FUNDS
PRESERVATION PROJECTS**

The Port of Long Beach has completed demolition of the former Long Beach Naval Station, triggering the transfer of \$4.5 million in preservation funds from the port to the Long Beach Navy Memorial Heritage Association. The funding fulfills an agreement reached last year by the port, Navy and preservation groups, clearing the way for construction of a shipping terminal at the former Navy site.

Under the accord, the non-profit Navy heritage association is to use the money for "fostering and supporting the identification, evaluation, preservation, rehabilitation, restoration and interpretation of historical resources" within the city of Long Beach.

The board of directors of the newly formed association consists of two members from Long Beach Heritage, two from the Wilmore City Heritage Association, two from the Historical Society of Long Beach and three members from the city's Cultural Heritage Commission.

"This fund was arrived at after several years of thoughtful consideration by the port, Navy and preservation groups," said Nancy Latimer, the Navy heritage association's president and a Long Beach Heritage member. "The historic Naval Station has been demolished but we feel that a lot of public benefit will come from this fund."

The group's intent is to use only the interest earned each year so that historic preservation grants can be awarded indefinitely, said Latimer. The memorial heritage association has obtained its tax-exempt status, and it plans on issuing its first grant next year.

Under last year's agreement, the port placed the \$4.5 million into an escrow fund when it began redeveloping the Naval Station. When the port demolished Pier 7 at the Naval Station in mid-July, completing the razing of the former Navy facility, the money was transferred to the memorial association.

The port is building a 200-plus-acre container terminal. Since the beginning of the year, it has awarded contracts for a new wharf, grading and the installation of utilities for the new terminal.

In addition to the preservation fund, the port has taken several steps to memorialize the Naval Station. Architectural drawings for the Navy buildings will be preserved at the National Archives facility in Laguna Niguel, with copies going to the Historical Society of Long Beach. Historic photographs of the Naval Station are going into the Special Collections at California State University, Long Beach. The port also is preparing an exhibit, including a three-dimensional model of the Naval Station, and a video documenting the architecture and history of the facility.

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