

[CLOSE WINDOW](#)



December 2001

AROUND THE PORT

Boosted by an increase in imports, the total number of cargo containers shipped through the Port of Long Beach in October climbed to the equivalent of 434,866 twenty-foot-long container units, a 0.5 percent increase over October 2000.

This October's total is the highest monthly total in the port's 90-year history, surpassing the August 2000 total of 434,741 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

With a final rush of holiday orders, the port's shipping terminals moved 238,185 TEUs of inbound containers in October, a 1.1 percent increase from October 2000.

The August-through-October period is typically the port's peak shipping season - the time when holiday merchandise is shipped to retailers. The port's imports include such Asian-made holiday products as clothing, toys, consumer electronics, shoes and household goods.

Reflecting the weakness in many Asian economies, the number of export containers shipped through Long Beach fell 7.1 percent to 82,255 TEUs in October. Nearly all of the port's leading trading partners are in Asia.

The port's exports include factory equipment and raw materials such as plastics, chemicals and recycled wastepaper. While the October export total is higher than the September figure, October marked the 12th consecutive month in which the export total dropped in comparison with the same month a year ago.

Because imports edged higher while exports fell, the number of empty containers shipped back to Asia through Long Beach continued to climb. The number of empties rose to 114,428 TEUs, a 5.1 percent increase from October 2000.

[The impact of the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11 on the port's trade volumes remains unclear.](#)

"The orders for the shipments in October were probably in the pipeline before Sept. 11," said port Executive Director Richard Steinke. "So our outlook for the next few months, and for the world economy in general, is very uncertain."

[The port has been honored as an "Environmental Hero" by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Sen. Barbara Boxer for helping to address the regional challenge of](#)

contaminated sediment disposal.

The port developed an innovative ecologically safe approach, isolating contaminated sediments in a marine slip and using the sediment as engineered structural landfill. In all, the port accepted nearly 1 million cubic yards of contaminated sediments from three marine locations in the greater Los Angeles area: the West Basin of the former Long Beach Naval Complex, Marina Del Rey and the mouth of the Los Angeles River.

The project provided the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with a free disposal alternative for materials that would otherwise have been economically impractical to dispose, and it helped the City of Long Beach with a chronic shoaling problem in the Los Angeles River.

The sediment was sandwiched between tens of thousands of cubic yards of clean sand and used to create a 30-acre landfill at the port's California United Terminals.

The port was one of 31 western organizations and individuals recognized by the EPA for their efforts to protect and preserve the environment during 2000. A key factor in the success of the project was the support of the interagency Los Angeles Regional Contaminated Sediments Task Force.

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has voted to reject all four bids submitted to build a new bulk shiploader for Pier G after three of the four bids were disqualified as unresponsive.

The port is seeking new bids on the shiploader, which is needed to comply with air-emission standards being imposed by the South Coast Air Quality Management District. The deadline for the new shiploader to be in operation, under Assembly Bill 1775, is Jan.1, 2004.

Excavation of the Alameda Corridor rail consolidation project's 10-mile-long mid-corridor trench has been completed. All 27,000 pilings are in place, and the entire length of the trench has been lined with concrete.

Installation of two sets of railroad tracks - for trains coming and going - within the trench is scheduled for completion by the end of the year.

The entire, 20-mile Alameda Corridor Project is on schedule for completion in April 2002. The \$2.4 billion project will link the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles with transcontinental rail yards near East Los Angeles via a high-speed, high-capacity rail expressway.

Citing national security, the Long Beach City Council has rejected a proposal asking the Army Corps of Engineers to study the lowering or removal of the eastern-most segment of the Long Beach breakwater.

Vice Mayor Dan Baker requested the study, but none of the other eight council members supported his motion with a second during a three-hour debate.

Port Chief Harbor Engineer Doug Thiessen testified that the two-mile-long breakwater segment was needed to protect the Port of Long Beach and other properties along the waterfront.

Alliance partners Kawasaki Kisen Kaisha ("K" Line) of Japan and Yang Ming Marine Transport Corp. of Taiwan are planning a new transpacific pendulum service beginning the first quarter of 2002.

“K” Line and Yang Ming plan to deploy a fleet of 5,500-TEU vessels in the new service. The 12 ships will call in Long Beach, Oakland, Kobe, Shanghai, Ningbo (China), Hong Kong, Yantian (China), Singapore, Europe, Port Kelang (Malaysia), Singapore, Yantian (China), Hong Kong, Xiamen (China) or Pusan (South Korea) and back to Long Beach.

‘Tis the season for giving, so the International Seafarers Center of Long Beach is asking for donations of sundry items to be included in holiday gift bags that it gives to crewmen who visit the port during December.

Among the items needed are toothpaste, toothbrushes, socks, shampoo, men’s deodorant, candies, gum, pens, soap, envelopes, cup-of-soup, aftershave lotion, razors, shaving cream, nail clippers, small-size tissue, cups and glasses.

Donations will be accepted at the Seafarers Center, 120 S. Pico Ave., Long Beach. Or call (562) 432-7560.

Port Trivia Quiz: According to the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, single-hull oil tankers of 5,000 gross tons or greater will be excluded from U.S. waters in 2010. Does this regulation apply only to U.S.-flag ships, or does it apply to single-hull tankers from any nation? For the answer, go to the last page of this newsletter.

Celebrating the Port of Long Beach’s 90th anniversary, more than two-dozen historic photographs of the port are on display through December in the lobby gallery of the Long Beach Main Library, 101 Pacific Ave.

Another exhibit of historic port photographs is on display in the lobby of the port Administration Building, 925 Harbor Plaza.

Capt. Martin Renteria of the Los Angeles port police will discuss port security and safety at a Dec. 4 luncheon hosted by the International Trade Club of Southern California.

The event will be held at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach. For more information, call (562) 434-4233.

The Los Angeles Economic Development Corp. (LAEDC) is hosting a breakfast panel discussion Dec. 4 on The Future of Los Angeles County.

The event will be held at the Los Angeles Center Studios in the Beaudry Building.

Panelists include LAEDC Chief Economist Jack Kyser, Dr. Jon Goodman of EC2 at the University of Southern California, Michael Collins of the Los Angeles Convention and Visitor’s Bureau, and Michael Ho of Wells Fargo Bank. For more information, call (213) 236-4832.

Weighing further regulations to reduce air pollution, the California Air Resources Board has planned a series of meetings to gather information on waterfront air quality.

It will meet with the maritime industry from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 6 at the port Administration Building, 925 Harbor Plaza.

The meeting, open to the public, will cover existing air quality conditions and emission-reduction programs such as the voluntary ship speed reduction program in the San Pedro Bay area. If you wish to attend, send an e-mail to pmilkey@arb.ca.gov.

John Cushing of eModal Inc. will be among the panelists for an "Industry Year in Review" dinner program presented by the Harbor Transportation Club on Dec. 6 at Ports O'Call Restaurant in San Pedro.

Other speakers include Arthur Litman of the Tower Group and Richard Sipkoi of Pacer Stacktrain. For information, call (562) 434-7393.

The Foreign Trade Association will hold its annual holiday luncheon on Dec. 5 at the Regal Biltmore Hotel in Los Angeles.

Attendees are asked to bring an unwrapped toy for the Operation USA Toy Drive. For more information, questions can be e-mailed to foreigntrade@earthlink.net.

State Sen. Betty Karnette is among the speakers scheduled for a 10 a.m.-to-3 p.m. gathering of the West Coast Waterfront Coalition on Dec. 12 at the Hilton Port of Los Angeles Hotel at the Cabrillo Marina in San Pedro.

Karnette is expected to discuss her proposed legislation, which would impose a fee on containers entering California's seaports. For more information, send an e-mail to: rwlanier@alliancemg.com

A panel discussion on the harbor economy is planned for a Dec. 13 luncheon meeting of the Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce.

The event will be held at the West Coast Long Beach Hotel. For more information, call (310) 417-3929.

The Propeller Club's annual holiday luncheon featuring The Rev. James Whitcomb Brouger and music by Board Appeal Band will be held Dec. 19 at the Long Beach Hyatt Regency Hotel. For more information, call (818) 951-2841.

Vera Adams and Audrey Adams of U.S. Customers will be the speakers at a Jan. 10 dinner hosted by the Harbor Transportation Club at the Ports O' Call Restaurant in San Pedro. For information, call (562) 434-7393.

PORT PEOPLE

Joseph Prevratil, president of the group that operates the Queen Mary, has been honored by the Long Beach Area Council of Boy Scouts as its 2001 Good Scout of the Year.

Prevratil is a former Port of Long Beach executive director.

Toni Whitesell, the port's director of administration, and Wilma Powell, the port's director of trade and maritime services, learned what it is to be a principal. At least for one day.

They were among 260 guest principals from business and industry who participated in the Long Beach Unified School District's principal for a day program last month. Whitesell was the principal at Poly High School and Powell was the principal at Lincoln Elementary School.

After 23 years in Long Beach, Torben Blichfeld, marine manager at the Maersk terminal on Pier J, is relocating to the company's U.S. headquarters in Madison, N.J.

The move is part of a company reorganization. Blichfeld once sailed for Maersk and joined the Long Beach terminal operations only three years after the company's vessels began calling in Long Beach.

Port Trivia Quiz answer: All single hulled tank vessels will be excluded from U.S. waters regardless of country of registry or origin. The Ocean Pollution Act does, however, have an exception for unloading at deep- water ports and lightering (transfer) operations.

E-MAIL NEWS BULLETINS!

The port issues a free Internet version of Tie Lines and e-mail "news flashes" on breaking news.

To sign up, send a blank e-mail to polb-subscribe@yahogroups.com

[CLOSE WINDOW](#)