

CLOSE WINDOW



December 2004

AROUND THE PORT . . .

With extra longshore workers clearing a months-long logjam of vessels, container cargo volume soared in October at the Port of Long Beach, resulting in the highest monthly total ever.

The number of containers shipped through the Port in October climbed 27.7 percent compared to the same month a year ago, increasing to 557,665 twenty-foot-long container units. The previous record was set in July.

Leading the way was a 25.5 percent jump in inbound containers, which increased to the equivalent of 288,590 twenty-foot container units – the best-ever monthly import total. Imports include such holiday products as clothing, toys, shoes, home furnishings and consumer electronics made in Asia.

Exports, mostly raw materials including recycled paper, edged up 1 percent to 85,823 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). With the imbalance in trade, the number of empty containers (nearly all sent back overseas to be re-filled with products) jumped 51 percent to 183,252 TEUs.

Giving everyone another reason to celebrate Thanksgiving, the Pacific Maritime Association declared a week before Turkey Day an official end to nearly five months of vessel congestion at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

For the first time since before the July 4th holiday, there were no vessels at berth sitting idle because of a shortage of longshore workers. In the days before Thanksgiving, the vessel count for the two San Pedro Bay ports dropped back into the “normal” range below 50, with less than a dozen of those ships at anchor.

Railroad delays, an unexpected surge in cargo and a shortage of

longshore workers had slowed vessel traffic in Long Beach and Los Angeles. The number of vessels at the two ports peaked at 94 with half at anchor in mid-October. Turnaround times for ships doubled to eight or more days causing fears across the country that “Santa’s sleighs” might not arrive in time for the holidays.

In declaring that vessel traffic at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles had returned to normal, PMA President **Jim McKenna** told retailers and consumers, “Your holiday goods won’t be delayed any further by congestion at the Southern California ports.”

The backlog was cleared after the PMA and the longshore union agreed in August to add what eventually will be more than 5,000 part-time “casuals” and 1,250 full-time workers.

They had begun the year with nearly 3,000 casuals and about 4,500 full-time registered members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union.

The 5,000 additional casuals were selected in a “lottery” in which more than 300,000 people submitted postcards to apply for the highly coveted jobs.

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has approved the conditional award of a \$34.4 million contract with Ortiz Enterprises Inc. of Irvine for the construction of a new interchange at Ocean Boulevard and the Terminal Island Freeway.

Ortiz Enterprises submitted the lowest of six bids for the 26-month project to eliminate the traffic signal at Ocean and the Terminal Island Freeway.

When completed, motorists using Ocean will be able to travel non-stop on an elevated roadway that will pass over both the Terminal Island Freeway and the Henry Ford Avenue intersections. New on- and off-ramps will provide access to and from Ocean Boulevard at both intersections.

The Port of Long Beach will hold a public meeting at 10 a.m. Dec. 8 to discuss traffic delays and other potential impacts from the project to rebuild the Ocean Boulevard/Terminal Island Freeway interchange.

Commuters and businesses that rely upon the Terminal Island stretch of Ocean between the Gerald Desmond Bridge and Seaside Way are encouraged to attend. Construction is set to begin in early January and continue through February of 2007.

The construction plan includes both a detour road parallel to Ocean and extensive control measures to minimize impacts on traffic. Despite these plans, there may be occasional delays during the project.

The meeting will be held in the 6th floor board room of the Port of Long Beach Administration Building, located at 925 Harbor Plaza. For more information, call (562) 590-4146.

The U.S. Transportation Security Administration has begun a seven-month test of the technology and business processes for a Transportation Worker Identity Credential (TWIC), starting at Long Beach Container Terminal.

The testing program will expand to 34 sites in six states. In Southern California, city workers at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles and Los Angeles International Airport, and the administrative staffs of LBCT, APL, British Petroleum, Crowley Marine Services, Hanjin Shipping Co., Intermodal Container Transfer Facility, Maersk Sealand and SSA Marine will test the identification cards.

TWIC is a tamper-resistant credential that contains biometric information about the holder that renders the card useless to anyone other than the rightful owner. Using this biometric data, each transportation facility can verify the identity of a worker and prevent unauthorized individuals from accessing secure areas.

A joint venture of Manson Construction and Connolly-Pacific has completed a \$74 million project that extended the length of the wharf to nearly one mile at the Total Terminals International container terminal at Pier T.

The 18-month-long, dredging and wharf extension project created a 5,000-foot-long wharf by adding a 1,300-foot section of wharf at the 375-acre facility. With the longer wharf, Total Terminals will be able to work as many as four vessels simultaneously.

The Consulting Engineers and Land Surveyors of California has announced that the Port's Pier T development project will be presented the 2004 Golden State Award, the highest recognition bestowed by this statewide organization.

The honor will be presented at the CELSOC Engineering Excellence Award Banquet in January. As the California award recipient, the project becomes a nominee for the national American Council of Engineering Companies competition.

On Nov. 22, Port officials welcomed the 8,000-TEU COSCO Seattle during its maiden voyage to SSA Marine's Pacific Container Terminal at Pier J.

The *Seattle* is a sister ship of the *COSCO Long Beach*, which made its first call to Long Beach in August. They are the first two of five 8,000-TEU vessels built by Hyundai Heavy Industries of South Korea that China Ocean Shipping Co. has chartered from E. R. Schiffahrt of

Germany.

COSCO is deploying the new giants in its Southeast Asia (SEA) service, which calls in China at Ningbo, Xiamen, Hong Kong and Yantian, and also Long Beach and Vancouver before returning across the Pacific to Yokohama, Japan, and then Ningbo.

On Nov. 23, one of China Shipping Container Lines' newest mega-ships, the *CSCL America*, made its maiden call at the Total Terminals International facility at Pier T.

With a capacity of 8,500 TEUs, the *America*-class vessels are the world's largest container ships. The *America* is deployed in China Shipping's Asia-America South Loop 1 (AAS1) service calling in China in Shanghai, Xiamen, Yantian and Hong Kong, and then Long Beach and Oakland before returning to Shanghai.

The *America* is a sister ship to the *CSCL Asia*, which made its first call to Long Beach in July. The *America* and *Asia* are the first two of five 8,500-TEU ships that China Shipping has ordered from Samsung Heavy Industries of South Korea.

PierPass, the group organizing night and weekend truck gates at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, has revised its plans and will offer five extended-hour shifts in its first month of operations.

Originally scheduled to begin in November, the PierPass off-hour program has been postponed until the first quarter of 2005 because of labor shortages. The original plan was to phase in extended-hour shifts over a five-month period.

The new one-month implementation will allow truckers and the rest of the industry to adapt their schedules more readily to off-hour gates. The precise schedule of off-hour gates will be announced at least one month before the start of the PierPass program, which is aimed at reducing daytime rush-hour traffic and air pollution.

The Foreign Trade Association will hold its annual holiday season lunch celebration on Dec. 7 at the Omni Los Angeles Hotel. For more information, call (323) 730-1011.

The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's International Business Association, Airport Area Business Council and Tech Point Committee are hosting a joint holiday lunch on Dec. 10 at The Grand, 4101 E. Willow St., Long Beach. For more information, call (562) 432-8128.

The Propeller Club's annual holiday luncheon will be held Dec. 15 at the Hyatt Regency Long Beach. For more information, call (818)

951-2842.

PORT PEOPLE. . .

Trade and transportation veteran Tom Teofilo has been named the Port of Long Beach's managing director of maritime services, succeeding Don Wylie who left the Port in July for a position in the stevedoring business.

Teofilo had been the Southern California vice president of the Pacific Merchant Shipping Association, which represents shipping lines, terminal operators and stevedoring companies on the West Coast. Teofilo was previously president and CEO of the World Trade Center Association of Los Angeles-Long Beach. He is a former senior vice president of Korea Shipping Corp., and formerly assistant vice president of Orient Overseas Container Line. Teofilo also worked at the Port in the 1980s as a trade development director.

Carl A. Kemp has been named to the newly created position of director of community relations and government affairs for the Port of Long Beach, moving over from City Hall where he held a similar position.

For the past six years, Kemp has worked under City Manager. Kemp's focus will be to develop better links between the Port and the community, and keeping the Council and community partners involved and informed about the Port. He also will manage county, state and federal advocacy efforts.

Carl Kemp's addition to the staff allows Gus Hein, the former director of government affairs, to assume a more prominent role with the Board of Harbor Commissioners as executive officer to the board.

Hein will serve as a spokesperson for the board on matters relating to board policy, serve as liaison between the board and Port staff, assist in overseas trade missions, and continue to coordinate the board's involvement in advocacy efforts and in the public policy process.

The Los Angeles Transportation Club has named Don Dorr of Hollister Construction as its chairman for 2005. At a black tie dinner in November, the LATC honored Jim De Mask of WZI Worldwide as its Member of the Year.

The other new officers are President **Steven Finley** of RE: Transportation; 1st Vice President **David Langrehr** of We 'R' Drayage; 2nd Vice President **Jim De Mask**; Secretary Treasurer **Rick Sipkoi** of Pacer StackTrain; and Sergeant at Arms **John Abate** with MSM

Canadian Transport.

E-MAIL NEWS BULLETINS!

The port issues a free Internet version of Tie Lines and e-mail “news flashes.”

To sign up, send a blank e-mail to polb-subscribe@yahoogroups.com, or go to <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/polb/>

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