

tie lines – January 2005

The Port of Long Beach's monthly newsletter

AROUND THE PORT . . .

Last-minute holiday cargo and shipments of after-Christmas products boosted container cargo volume in November to a record at the Port of Long Beach, with the total number of containers jumping 37.1 percent to the equivalent of 582,614 twenty-foot container units.

The November total bested the previous all-time monthly record set a month earlier in October. The number of inbound containers -- filled largely with Asian-made products including the clothing, shoes and toys headed to the nation's shopping malls for holiday and after-Christmas sales -- rose 36.7 percent to a record-setting 295,717 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). The previous best import total was in October.

The number of outbound containers -- filled largely with raw materials including recycled paper -- climbed 20.6 percent to 99,436 TEUs, the best monthly export total since June 1997.

The number of empty containers -- nearly all headed overseas to be re-filled with products -- increased 48.7 percent to a record 187,461 TEUs.

With November's record-breaking container cargo total, the Port's total through 11 months has shattered Long Beach's best one-year total of nearly 4.7 million TEUs set last year.

Through the first 11 months of 2004, shipping terminals at the Port moved more than 5.2 million TEUs -- a 23 percent increase over the same period a year ago. Year-to-date, imports are up 23.6 percent, exports up 11.4 percent, and empties up 29.5 percent.

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has approved a \$34 million contract with Ortiz Enterprises Inc. of Irvine to build a new Ocean Boulevard/Terminal Island Freeway interchange.

The project will ease traffic along Ocean Boulevard between the Gerald Desmond Bridge and Navy Way. Construction is set to begin in late January 2005 and continue through February 2007.

When completed, motorists using Ocean Boulevard will be able to travel non-stop east and west on an elevated roadway over the intersections with the Terminal Island Freeway and Henry Ford Avenue. Currently, traffic signals at these intersections cause congestion. New on- and off-ramps will provide access to and from Ocean Boulevard and the Terminal Island Freeway and Henry Ford Avenue.

A future project by the Port of Los Angeles will remove a final traffic signal at the intersection of Ocean Boulevard and Navy Way, which will make Ocean Boulevard a freeway-like throughway between the Gerald Desmond and Vincent Thomas bridges.

The construction plan includes both a detour road parallel to Ocean Boulevard and extensive traffic control measures to minimize impact on traffic. Despite these plans, occasional delays can be expected during construction.

In the spirit of the holidays, the Board of Harbor Commissioners voted to contribute \$5,000 to the International Seafarers Center's Stranded Seafarers Fund to help 16 stranded Filipino seamen.

Their vessel, the bulk carrier *Katerina*, was seized in September in a health and safety investigation while calling at the California United Terminals facility in Long Beach. Authorities granted the crew immunity for their testimony but will not allow them to return home until they have testified in court against their captain, officers and ship owner DST Shipping of Greece. A court hearing is scheduled for mid-January.

The International Seafarers Center organized a campaign among the local maritime community to gather donations to house, clothe and feed the stranded seamen. Because the seamen haven't been granted work permits while awaiting the court hearing, the Seafarers Center raised money to send to their families in the Philippines.

The Port of Long Beach has been a leading supporter of the International Seafarers Center. The center has operated in an office building and on land provided by the Port of Long Beach. Tony Urrutia, the Port's assistant finance director, volunteers as the Center's treasurer.

The Seafarers Center has established a Stranded Seafarers Fund for emergencies such as that faced by the stranded Filipino seamen. The Seafarer Center's operating and capital funds cannot pay for such emergencies. All contributions to the Stranded Seafarers Fund will help with such emergencies, but will not go for the center's operating or capital expenses.

Contributions to the International Seafarers Center (Stranded Seafarers Fund) may be sent to the center at 120 S. Pico Avenue, Long Beach, CA 90802.

On Nov. 30, Port officials welcomed the 8,000-TEU container cargo ship, COSCO Vancouver, during its maiden voyage to SSA Marine's Pacific Container Terminal at Pier J.

The *Vancouver* is a sister ship to the *COSCO Long Beach*, *Shenzhen* and *Seattle*, which also call in Long Beach. They are the first four 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 8,000-TEU giants in its Southeast Asia (SEA) service, which calls in China at Ningbo, Xiamen, Hong Kong and Yantian, and then Long Beach, Vancouver, Yokohama, Japan, and back to Ningbo.

The 5,040-TEU *Zim Haifa*, one of the largest container ships able to pass through the 106-foot-wide Panama Canal, made its first call at SSA Terminal's Pier A facility on Dec. 9.

Zim Integrated Shipping Services Ltd., formerly Zim Israel Navigation Co., has deployed the *Haifa* in its ZCS round-the-world service.

Seeking to improve air quality, Long Beach Container Terminal is converting all of its diesel-powered yard equipment to a newly developed, clean burning oxygenated diesel fuel, O2Diesel.

The new alternative diesel fuel, to be used in more than 60 pieces of heavy equipment, is expected to reduce particulate emissions by as much as 20 percent and nitrogen oxide (NOx)

emissions by 1.6 percent.

The marine terminal operator also has installed diesel oxidation catalysts on all of its yard equipment including top handlers, side handlers and rubber tire gantry cranes. By themselves, the exhaust catalysts reduce particulate emissions by 25 percent.

Later this year, LBCT also will be testing liquefied natural gas on some heavy equipment.

The Port of Long Beach and the California Air Resources Board provided more than \$2 million to pay for the diesel oxidation catalysts which have been installed on almost all of the nearly 600 diesel-powered yard vehicles used within the seven container terminals at the Port.

The Port also established an incentive fund to help terminal operators transition to the use of emulsified diesel fuel and to defray the higher cost of this fuel.

Reflecting the growth in trade, the Alameda Corridor continues to see increasing train traffic. Traffic peaked in October when the Corridor averaged 48.4 trains a day, up 19.6 percent from the same month a year ago.

The trains in October carried the equivalent of 6,280 forty-foot containers, which means that the Corridor removed 200 truck trips a day from the Long Beach (710) Freeway and other roadways between the waterfront and inland rail yards.

For the year, the Corridor is averaging 43.3 trains a day, up 8.6 percent over 2003, according to the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority.

The Corridor, a 20-mile-long dedicated freight rail expressway, links the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles with Burlington Northern & Santa Fe and Union Pacific's major transcontinental rail yards near east Los Angeles.

The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, the busiest in the United States, are getting some extra attention from the federal government.

U.S. Secretary of Transportation **Norman Y. Mineta** has unveiled his department's Southern California Gateway Initiative, which includes the opening of a Long Beach office to provide federal officials the latest information about growth and challenges facing the ports and their customers.

Mineta said the initiative includes an on-site federal ombudsman, **Randy Rogers**, who will be located in Long Beach in the Glenn Anderson Federal Building, 501 W. Ocean Blvd. The ombudsman will report directly to the Secretary and the U.S. Maritime Administrator.

The Port of Long Beach was the fifth-ranked U.S. international freight gateway by shipment value in 2003, according to a report by the U.S. Department of Transportation's Bureau of Transportation Statistics.

The report, America's Freight Transportation Gateways, shows that Long Beach handled \$17 billion in export trade and \$79 billion in imports, totaling \$96 billion in business handled by the port.

The Port of Los Angeles topped the list with \$122 billion and Los Angeles International Airport was seventh with \$64 billion. The "gateways" included seaports, airports and land border crossings.

In December, DreamWorks filmed scenes for its futuristic action thriller “The Island” at the Port’s Pier S property on Terminal Island. “The Island” is being directed by Michael Bey and stars Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johansson.

The Pier S property is a former oil field that the Port may redevelop as a container cargo terminal. The Port is preparing an environmental impact report on the proposed 160-acre project.

Dan Beers of Swift Intermodal will be the speaker for the Los Angeles Transportation Club luncheon Jan. 11 at the Marriott Norwalk Hotel. For more information call (562) 856-9197.

Cal State Long Beach’s Center for International Trade and Transportation will be offering module two of its Global Logistics Specialist Online Course on Jan. 12.

Module two is called “Follow the Freight: Process, Partners, Documents and Decisions. For more information, call (562) 296-1170 or send an e-mail to citt@uces.csulb.edu.

George Cunningham, publisher of the Cunningham Report, and Bill Mongelluzzo, West Coast editor for the Journal of Commerce, will discuss “What we can expect in the New Year” at a Harbor Transportation Club dinner Jan. 13 at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach. For more information, call (562) 434-7393.

Port of Long Beach Executive Director Richard Steinke will present his annual State of the Port address at an International Business Association luncheon Jan. 28 at the Long Beach Airport Marriott.

Steinke will discuss the balance needed to move increasing cargo volumes while mitigating the impacts of cargo growth on the community and the environment.

For more information, call (562) 432-8128.

PORT PEOPLE. . .

Cal State Long Beach’s Center for International Trade and Transportation has announced the second graduating class for its Master’s Degree in Global Logistics.

In a ceremony sponsored by the Port of Long Beach, the class of fall 2004 was introduced. The students include **Richard Alonzo** of Sony Logistics, **Kim Bryan** of Bayer Material Science, **William Capone** of Skyteam Cargo, **Kevin Chai** of Belkin Corp., **Raul M. Herrera** of APL Logistics, **Robert Jones** of Marine Terminals Corp., **Bill McMullen** of NACA Logistics, **Jim Musser** of DENSO Sales California, **Joe Nortman** of UPS, **Kevin Notrica** of P&O Nedlloyd Logistics, and **Jennifer Yashukochi** of Meiko America Inc.

The Long Beach Port Ambassadors have presented the prestigious Capt. Whitey Ashley Award to Hilda Williams for her dedication and wide-ranging commitment to the port volunteer service organization.

Williams has been an extremely active member of the Port Ambassadors since her retirement in 1990 from Hanjin Shipping where she was a human resources manager.

The award, presented to members for outstanding service, is named in honor of one of the Port Ambassadors' founding members.

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

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