

tie lines – September 2005

The Port of Long Beach's monthly newsletter

AROUND THE PORT . . .

With growing exports offsetting slowing imports, container cargo terminals at the Port of Long Beach reported a gain of 8.2 percent in the total number containers shipped in July, climbing to the equivalent of 573,300 twenty-foot-long container units.

Responding to strong demand in China for raw materials, the number of outbound containers jumped 29.7 percent to 106,917 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in July – a record fifth-straight month that exports have topped 100,000 TEUs.

The number of inbound containers edged up only 2.7 percent to 289,518 TEUs as importers diverted some shipments to other West Coast ports fearing congestion at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. However, there has been no congestion and cargo continues to move smoothly.

The number of empty containers, almost all shipped overseas, climbed 6.9 percent to 176,865 TEUs.

The Port will be showcasing its efforts to improve the environment at a Green Port Open House from 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday, Oct. 1, at the Port Administration Building, 925 Harbor Plaza.

The Open House will feature exhibits about the Port's groundbreaking Green Port Policy – a sweeping framework for how the port addresses environmental impacts and the very way it does business.

There will be free harbor cruises focusing on the Port's environmental programs, demonstrations of clean air technology and a playground of clean-burning Port vehicles and equipment. Also, you can drop off your old electronics at the Ease-E-Waste Recycling Station.

There will be entertainment, free food and activities for children. So bring the entire family! For more information, go to the Port web site at www.polb.com.

Ever wish you could go aboard a giant container ship or inside a marine terminal? The Port of Long Beach will be taking viewers behind the scenes for a fascinating look at port operations as it hosts a new cable TV news magazine program, "Pulse of the Port."

The half-hour program will air beginning in September on Long Beach Television 8, the City of Long Beach's government access channel hosted by Charter Communications.

The first program will feature stories on the environmental Green Port Policy, the PierPASS OffPeak truck gate program, the newest mega ships and more. "Pulse of the Port" will air in English, Spanish and the Cambodian language, Khmer.

Taking a major step to improve air quality, the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are partnering with Pacific Harbor Line to replace the entire fleet of harbor locomotives with 16 "clean-diesel" and two alternative fuel alternative-fuel locomotives.

The \$23 million replacement program is part of a new 10-year extension of an agreement

between the ports and Pacific Harbor Line, a private company that since 1998 has provided railroad switching services. PHL also dispatches all BNSF Railway and Union Pacific trains within the ports.

During the next year, PHL will replace its aging locomotives – some more than 50 years old – with new “clean diesel” locomotives that exceed U.S. Environmental Protection Agency “Tier 2” standards.

PHL will acquire and test the use of a locomotive using liquefied natural gas and another “Green Goat” locomotive that incorporates hybrid diesel-battery technology.

With the cleaner engines and fuels, exhaust devices and operational changes, Pacific Harbor Line’s new locomotives will reduce nitrogen oxide by two thirds or more than 200 tons a year, and cut particulate matter by three-quarter or more than five tons a year.

With this voluntary step, PHL’s locomotive fleet will have the lowest average emissions profile of any railroad in the United States.

Under the accord, the ports will each pay as much as \$5 million toward the estimated \$23 million cost to replace the PHL locomotive fleet, with the balance coming from PHL and a \$3.2 million Carl Moyer grant from the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

The agreement also calls for devices shutting down the locomotive engines if they idle for more than 15 minutes; the use of cleaner-burning emulsified diesel fuel in the new and existing locomotives; and exhaust cleanup devices on the new locomotives.

Union Pacific Railroad has ordered 10 “Green Goat,” low-emission, hybrid technology locomotives for use in Southern California rail yard operations.

Costing \$8.2 million, the new locomotives will be powered by large banks of batteries. A small, low-emission diesel engine recharges the batteries as they are depleted. Delivery of the Green Goats is expected to begin late this year.

In addition to ships and trucks, the Port is a major transportation center for trains. Pacific Harbor Line makes 50 train switches a day, serving the Port’s 22 rail-related facilities including six of the seven container terminals.

Total Terminals International (Pier T), which operates the Port’s largest on-dock rail yard, loaded enough trains to take 182,000 trucks off the roadways in 2004.

This year, TTI expects to eliminate more than 275,000 truck trips.

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has voted to appropriate \$5 million toward the cost of an environmental impact study for a proposed \$5.5 billion overhaul of the congestion-plagued Long Beach (Interstate-710) Freeway.

The \$30 million environmental study would examine design alternatives and evaluate the benefits and impacts of widening the 50-year-old freeway to 10 general purpose lanes from the existing six, plus a four-lane truck component between Ocean Boulevard in Long Beach and the rail yards near East Los Angeles.

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority, which is spearheading the I-710 project, estimates that the environmental study will take three to four years to complete.

In addition to the contribution from the Port of Long Beach, the MTA is seeking \$5 million each

from Caltrans, Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and the Port of Los Angeles. The MTA also wants \$1 million from the Gateway Cities Council of Governments and \$4 million from the Federal Highway Administration.

The Board of Harbor Commissioners has approved a supplemental agreement to help finance the remaining restoration of the Bolsa Chica Wetlands in exchange for additional credits that allow the Port to modify or improve land within the harbor area.

The Port's \$11.4 million contribution to the planned project not only helps ensure the completion of the project but also provides for the long-term maintenance of the Wetlands, located in Huntington Beach.

In 1997, the Port contributed more than \$39 million to the Bolsa Chica restoration effort in return for mitigation credits. The final stages of the restoration project have been delayed and the funding is not adequate to complete the project and provide for maintenance.

The California Coastal Commission will review the funding plan in September.

Operations within terminals during the new OffPeak shifts at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach are as efficient as daytime shifts, according to a survey by PierPASS Inc.

Trucks arriving to pick up or drop off containers during OffPeak shifts are spending less than 30 minutes on average inside the terminal gates, comparable to peak-hour turn times during the week surveyed. Once out of the terminals, the trucks are able to travel in relatively light nighttime and Saturday traffic during the OffPeak shifts.

PierPASS' OffPeak program established night and Saturday truck gate shifts at the ports to relieve congestion. In its first four weeks of operation, the program diverted more than 188,000 truck trips from peak-hour weekday traffic.

PierPASS has received complaints about congestion during the start of nighttime OffPeak shifts.

PierPASS officials suggest that truck drivers arrive after 7:00 p.m., so they can avoid the congestion created by all the trucks showing up for service at the 6:00 p.m. start of the shift. In addition, PierPASS encourages companies and drivers to make fuller use of the hours after the 10:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. meal break. The weeknight OffPeak shifts continue until 3:00 a.m.

Port officials welcomed Hanjin Shipping Co.'s 8,000-TEU container ship, the Hanjin Miami, during its maiden call on Aug. 23 at the Total Terminals International facility on Pier T.

The Miami is one of five 8,000-TEU vessels that will be coming to TTI. First was the Boston in July. Also due to arrive before the end of the year is the Hanjin Baltimore, Yantian and Dallas. The vessels will join Hanjin's Pacific Express Service (PSX), which calls in Yantian (China), Hong Kong, Kaohsiung (Taiwan), Gwangyang and Busan (South Korea), Long Beach, Oakland, Seattle, Busan and back to Yantian.

The American Association of Port Authorities has honored the Port of Long Beach's Communications Division with two awards in the 2005 Communications Award Competition.

An Award of Excellence was presented to Long Beach for its advertising and an Award of Merit for Long Beach's Re:Port community newsletter.

Smokestack cleanup technology will be the topic of the Sept. 15 lunch meeting of the Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce at the Coast Long Beach Hotel.

The speaker will be Matthew Stewart of Advanced Cleanup Technologies, which is developing a "sock on a barge" technology – a barge mounted emission control device designed to capture the exhaust emissions of ocean-going vessels while anchored and berthed in port. For more information, call (818) 951-6088.

On Sept. 15, the Harbor Transportation Club will host its 18th annual harbor cruise of the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

The boat will depart at 6 p.m. next to the San Pedro Cruise Terminal. For more information, call (562) 434-7393.

The 5th annual International Seafarers Center's Great Tugboat Race and Boat Parade will be held 5:30 p.m. Sept. 22 at the Queen Mary.

The festivities, including a maritime industry salute dinner honoring Capt. Manny Aschemeyer of the Marine Exchange of Southern California, are a fund-raiser in support of the International Seafarers Center. For more information, call (818) 951-2842.

Bruce Wargo of PierPASS will provide an update on the new OffPeak truck gate program at the Sept. 30 lunch meeting of the International Business Association at the Long Beach Airport Marriott. For more information, call (562) 432-8128.

PORT PEOPLE . . .

Long Beach Harbor Department Senior Leasing Officer Gail Wasil and Harbor Patrol Supervisor Sgt. Richard Rumfelt have been named the Port of Long Beach Co-Employees of the Year.

Wasil and Rumfelt were selected from a group of nominees representing each of the Harbor Department divisions. From the Maintenance Division, the nominees were Rick Ussery, Donald Tarango, Eric Woodson, Henry Mills, Richarado Hernandez, Jose "Andy" Nanez.

The nominee from Finance Division was Curtis Christensen; from Trade and Maritime Services Kathleen Cox; from Planning Matthew Arms; from Information Management Terry Barber; from Executive Administration Paula Grond; and from Security Edwin Davis.

The Engineering Division nominees were Dave Fargo, Nick Gomez, Carlo Luzzi, Sue Vachon and Cheng Lai; and from Administration Dona Blazis, James Warszawski, Kathy Esquerra and Lois Wangness.

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