

tie lines – December 2005

The Port of Long Beach's monthly newsletter

AROUND THE PORT . . .

During this season to be jolly, terminal operators at the Port of Long Beach reported that they moved 600,940 container cargo units in October, up 7.8 percent over the same month a year ago.

The last of the holiday imports climbed 3.7 percent to the equivalent of 299,203 twenty-foot-long container units. October is generally the final month of the three-month-long peak shipping season, when most imports come in for the end-of-the-year holidays. Leading imports include consumer electronics, home furnishings, toys, clothing and shoes.

Exports jumped 20.5 percent to 103,422 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). With strong demand in Asia for U.S. raw materials, exports have increased 20 percent or more for seven straight months, compared with the same month a year ago.

Despite the export gains, there remains a wide trade imbalance. The number of empty containers, nearly all headed overseas to be re-filled with products, rose 8.2 percent to 198,315 TEUs.

If you would like to comment on the draft environmental impact study for a proposed liquefied natural gas (LNG) import terminal, there's still a little time.

Written comments will be taken through December 8. The comments should be sent to the Port of Long Beach or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Sound Energy Solutions (SES), a subsidiary of Mitsubishi Corp. of Japan, wants to build and operate a facility at the Port of Long Beach to import and distribute LNG. Construction cannot begin without the approval of local, state and federal authorities, and only after a thorough review of environmental issues.

The Port and FERC are jointly circulating the draft environmental impact report (EIR) and environmental impact statement (EIS) for public review and comment. For more information call the Port Planning Division at (562) 590-4160, or visit the Port web site at www.polb.com.

After the Port and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission have gathered public comment on the draft EIR/EIS for the proposed LNG terminal, what happens next?

The Port and the FERC staffs will prepare responses to the public comments, and add that information to the final EIR/EIS. The final document will be circulated for 30 days (probably next spring or summer). Then FERC will vote on whether to issue a permit, while the Long Board of Harbor Commissioners decides on the adequacy of the EIR and whether to move forward.

If the project moves ahead, it would go to the California Coastal Commission for a decision on a Port Master Plan amendment. If the amendment were approved, the project would come back to the Harbor Commission for a decision on a development permit and a lease – probably late next year.

The earliest that construction could begin would be early 2007. Construction would not be completed for at least three years.

Information on air quality conditions at the Port will soon be just a mouse click away. The Board of Harbor Commissioners has voted preliminary approval for the development of a \$1 million monitoring network that will make air quality data available at the Port's website.

The network would include two air-monitoring stations – the first of their kind located within the Port.

Commissioners voted preliminary approval for supplemental funding of \$1,016,000 to an existing contract with Science Applications International Corp., a San Diego-based research and engineering firm. If the commission votes final approval, SAIC will develop and build the monitoring network by the spring of 2006, and operate the system for the first three years.

The monitors will stream raw data directly to the Port website, tracking air pollutants such as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂), ozone (O₃), carbon monoxide (CO), sulfur dioxide (SO₂), respirable particulate matter (PM₁₀) and fine particulate matter (PM_{2.5}). In addition, the stations will provide meteorological data.

The Port's customers are not the only ones being asked to "green" their operations. The Long Beach Harbor Department also is pitching in, retrofitting its fleet of 38 diesel-powered vehicles and equipment to use a cleaner diesel fuel.

With the retrofit, the Harbor Department's cranes, dump trucks, emergency generator, skip loader and other diesel equipment will be using "O2 Diesel," also known as oxygenated or ethanol-blended diesel.

The use of O2 Diesel will reduce emissions of particulate matter by 20 percent. Particulate matter is a toxic air contaminant linked to health problems.

The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are working with the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority to develop an intelligent transportation system to manage traffic and security in the harbor area.

The Advanced Transportation Management and Information System (ATMIS) will use closed-circuit TV cameras, changeable message signs and other components to keep cargo moving smoothly and securely in and around the harbor area.

Seimens Energy and Automation is developing the system, which should be operation in 2007.

Port officials welcomed two Sinotrans container ships in November during their first voyages to the Total Terminals International facility on Pier T.

The 2,700-TEU Sinotrans Shanghai called at the TTI terminal on November 23. The 2,700-TEU Sinotrans Tianjin made its first call November 29.

Both vessels are part of Sinotrans' weekly China America Service, which calls at Ningbo and Shanghai in China; then Pusan, South Korea; Long Beach and back across the Pacific.

Long Beach Container Terminal has taken delivery on two post-panamax gantry cranes that are among the largest in the world.

The state-of-the-art, ship-to-shore cranes can reach across 23 container boxes – big enough for a yet-to-be-built generation of vessels. The largest container ships today are only 17 containers wide.

LBCT's new cranes, built in Shanghai by the Zhenhua Port Machinery Co. (ZPMC), have a lift capacity of 65 tons with twin 20-foot lift capability. The newest cranes, which will be operational in January, give LBCT a total of seven gantry cranes.

In January, LBCT is scheduled to take delivery on six additional ZPMC rubber-tired gantry cranes that also have twin 20-foot capability. The new RTGs will come with new air emission reduction technology that will be the first of its kind at the local ports.

In the holiday spirit, the Port is donating 200 older personal computers to Long Beach high schools where the PCs will be a major upgrade for their technology training and economics programs.

The Port is in the midst of its first major computer upgrade in five years. Instead of auctioning off its older computers for an estimated \$3,000, or trading them in for a \$5,000 discount on new computers, the Board of Harbor Commissioners voted to recycle the PCs by donating them to local high schools.

The Port is offering to package its "Trade Is" and "Julio's New Ride" education videos with the donated computers. The DVDs are being used this year by Long Beach area high schools to teach economics students about international trade.

As part of their computer training program, student volunteers are "scrubbing" clean the Port's older computers, removing data in the PCs for community service credit.

If you've ever been at a port container terminal, you may have wondered why they paint a white, spoke-like stripe on the wheels of their yard hostlers, top loaders and other wheeled equipment.

In the terminal environment, where it's often too loud to hear heavy equipment coming at you, the stripe is required under safety rules so that everyone can easily see that a machine is moving.

Kerry Cartwright, the Port's manager of transportation, will discuss the Advanced Transportation Management Information System at the monthly meeting of the Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce.

The lunchtime meeting on December 8 will be held at the Coast Long Beach Hotel in Long Beach Harbor. For more information, call (818) 951-6088.

Journal of Commerce West Coast Editor Bill Mongelluzzo and Cunningham Report Publisher George Cunningham will present the "2005: Year in Review" at the December 8 dinner meeting of the Harbor Transportation Club.

The event will be held at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach Harbor. For information, call (562) 434-7393.

The Long Beach Chamber of Commerce's International Business Association, Airport Area Business Council and the TechPoint Committee will hold a combined holiday luncheon on December 9 at the Grand in Long Beach. For information, call (562) 432-8128.

The Combined Maritime Clubs of Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors will hold its 44th annual Maritime Christmas Ball on the evening of December 10 at the Marina Hotel in San Pedro. For information, call (310) 549-9030.

The Propeller Club's annual holiday luncheon will be held December 14 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

The Reverend Arthur Bartlett will deliver a special message. Holiday music will be by the Broad Appeal Band. For more information, call (818) 951-2842.

Classes for the global logistics program at the Center for International Trade and Transportation at Cal State Long Beach begin January 11.

For information, contact Kerri Phipps at 562-296-1170 or khipps@uces.csulb.edu.

Bruce Wargo, president and CEO of PierPass Inc., will be the speaker at the Harbor Transportation Club dinner January 12 at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach Harbor. For information, call (562) 438-2355.

PORT PEOPLE. . .

Aileen Suliveras has been named the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency's acting port director for the Los Angeles/Long Beach Seaport, succeeding William Brush, who had been acting director since September.

Suliveras, a native of Massachusetts, has been the local assistant port director.

State Sen. Alan Lowenthal, (D-Long Beach), formerly a state Assemblyman and a Long Beach City Councilman, has been named to chair the Senate Transportation Committee.

The Transportation Commission has jurisdiction over bills dealing with waterways, harbors and highways.

Greg Moore, a 20-year veteran of the trade finance and facilitation industry, has been named trade manager for the newly re-opened Long Beach International Trade Office.

With support from the Port of Long Beach, the trade office will be operated under a partnership of the World Trade Center of Los Angeles and Long Beach, the Center for International Trade Development at Long Beach City College, and the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp.

The Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada has awarded a Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting to the Long Beach Harbor Department for its work on the Port's Comprehensive Annual Financial Report for the 2004 fiscal year.

The award is the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting.

An Award of Financial Reporting Achievement was presented to Harbor Department Senior Accountant **Tam Q. Tran** and Assistant Director of Finance **J. Antonio Urrutia** as the individuals primarily responsible for preparing the award-winning financial report.

Hollywood television executive William C. Allen has been named president and CEO of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corp., succeeding Lee Harrington who is retiring.

Allen, the president of Meadowlane Enterprises, was the first CEO of the Economic Alliance of the San Fernando Valley.