



Crew members aboard the COSCO Long Beach container ship display a Green Flag awarded for environmental achievement.

Beyond The Waterfront... Port's Community Partnerships



Port Sponsors Annual 'LB Reads One Book'

The Port of Long Beach was the title sponsor for this year's Long Beach Reads One Book community reading celebration in March. The citywide literacy program organized annually by the Long Beach Public Library Foundation focused on "My California," an anthology by 27 California authors who wrote about the state's diverse geography and people. Echoing the book's theme, the Long Beach Reads One Book events included a day of exhibits at the Long Beach Public Library that highlighted the city's diversity. The activities included displays by groups from throughout Long Beach, including the Port and comments by Harbor Commissioner Mario Cordero. Proceeds from the sale of special edition copies of "My California" benefited the California Arts Council.



Rallying Around the Green Flag

Port Program Rewards Environmentally Friendly Ships

Slower Ships, Cleaner Air

Under the Green Flag program, vessels that observe a 12-knot speed limit within 20 miles of the Port during an entire year of voyages to and from Long Beach will be awarded a Green Flag to recognize their contributions to improved air quality. Ocean carriers, who operate the individual ships, will qualify for a 15 percent discounted Green Flag dockage rate during the following 12 months if 90 percent of their vessels comply with the 12-knot speed limit for a year.

Ship flags have been used throughout history to signal important messages. At the Port of Long Beach, Green Flags now mean cleaner air.

The Port has begun awarding Green Flag environmental achievement awards to ships and vessel operators as part of a \$2.2 million-a-year incentive program designed to encourage compliance with the Port's voluntary vessel speed reduction program. Reduced ship speeds decrease harmful air emissions in the Port region.

Vessel operators calling at the Port of Long Beach can earn more than just flags under the Green Flag Incentive Program. Companies that participate consistently in the program in 2006 will receive financial incentives in the form of discounted dockage rates. In March the Port awarded the first set of Green Flags to 333 ships and 100 environmentally friendly fleet operators who voluntarily reduced speeds in 2005.



Harbor Commissioners honor fleet operators who voluntarily helped to improve air quality.

"We've had about 65 percent of all ships comply with the voluntary speed-limit program," said Board of Harbor Commissioners President Doris Topsy-Elvord. "With the Green Flag incentives in place, we hope to achieve 100 percent compliance."

Port officials estimate that if all vessels comply with the Green Flag program, the amount of smog-forming nitrogen oxides (NOx) produced by cargo ships would be reduced by nearly 550 tons a year. The Port has committed as much as \$2.2 million a year for this incentive program.

Port Partners with Students

International Elementary School honored the Port of Long Beach for being one of its most active business partners. Executive Director Richard Steinke represented the Port at the school's annual "Spirit Day." Each year the Port, its management and Employees Club provides support for the downtown Long Beach elementary school, making contributions of supplies and books. Port staff have read to students and participated in other programs.

