

tie lines – September 2006

A monthly newsletter from the Port of Long Beach

AROUND THE PORT . . .

The Port of Long Beach will host its second annual Green Port Open House on Saturday, October 7, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

The Open House will provide an interactive opportunity for the public to “see, learn and discover” one of the world’s busiest seaports and its award-winning Green Port Policy – a sweeping framework for how the Port is addressing environmental impacts.

Featuring exhibits, free environmental port boat tours, live entertainment, food and children’s activities, the Open House will be celebrated in front of the Port Administration Building, 925 Harbor Plaza.

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has appointed retired Coast Guard Rear Admiral Kevin J. Eldridge to the newly created position of Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer.

As Deputy Executive Director, Eldridge will be the Port’s No. 2 executive. Eldridge retired in June after 32 years with the Coast Guard, culminating his national service as Commander of the 11th Coast Guard District, headquartered in Alameda, California.

He has extensive experience in marine safety and security, pollution prevention and response, port operations, vessel operations, crisis management, congressional liaison and public affairs. Eldridge’s appointment was approved by the Commission August 7.

The landmark San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan is now headed for staff revisions and a vote by the governing boards of the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

With the close of the public comment period August 28, staff from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are now reviewing extensive public comments and considering revisions before presenting a final draft to the boards of harbor commissioners at the two ports. Approval of the Clean Air Action Plan is expected in late October or early November.

The Port of Long Beach has been awarded a \$300,000 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for development and testing of groundbreaking, environmentally friendly “Prius-like” diesel-hybrid cargo equipment.

The two-year, \$1.2-million Hybrid Yard Hostler Demonstration and Commercialization Project will research, develop, build and test the first hybrid cargo-handling equipment, known as yard hostlers, in the country.

The project will be headed by the Port of Long Beach in partnership with the Port of Los Angeles. Testing will be at Long Beach Container Terminal’s Pier F facility. Cargo-handling equipment manufacturer Kalmar Industries will integrate the cleaner hybrid system into the yard hostlers. CALSTART will evaluate the feasibility of the hybrid hostlers, looking at air quality impacts and fuel savings.

Federal EPA Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock was at the Port of Long Beach September 6 to announce the hybrid yard hostler project grant.

The EPA, Peacock said, considers the hybrid testing project an important part of potential clean-air strategies in the maritime industry. The proposed hybrid system, coupled with the cleanest available diesel engine, is expected to deliver a 93 percent reduction in smog-forming nitrogen oxide (NOx) and diesel particulate matter (PM) compared to current diesel yard hostlers. In addition, the hybrid technology is expected to reduce or eliminate emissions during idling, which can represent more than 50 percent of the yard hostler duty cycle.

After three months of near record level trade, container cargo terminals at the Port of Long Beach reported only a slight increase of 1.7 percent in July, compared to the same month a year ago.

The growth slowdown reflects a lull before the coming peak season of holiday-related shipments. In July the total number of containers shipped through Long Beach rose to the equivalent of 582,925 twenty-foot long container units.

Imports in July rose 5.4 percent to 305,117 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs). The strong export growth of the last year-and-a-half slowed, with exports decreasing by 5.7 percent to 100,861 TEUs. The number of empty containers (almost all headed overseas) remained steady at 175,947 TEUs, about the same number as July 2005.

Even with July's relatively smaller increase, Port trade is up 8.5 percent for the fiscal year-to-date. April, May and June saw near record levels of container cargo trade at the Port.

The Green Port Policy, the Port of Long Beach's comprehensive strategy to reduce the harmful environmental impacts of Port operations, will receive the top environmental achievement award from the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA) in October.

The Port will receive AAPA's Comprehensive Environmental Management Award of Excellence September 13 at the association's annual convention in New Orleans. The Port's Green Port Policy, adopted in January 2005, is an aggressive, comprehensive and coordinated approach to reducing and minimizing the negative impacts of Port operations.

The Port provided substantial funding for the Bolsa Chica Wetlands restoration project, which hit a major milestone August 24 when sea water reentered the wetlands for the first time in more than 100 years.

The Port contributed more than \$50 million to the \$147-million project through mitigation funds to offset marine habitat displaced through Port projects. Additional contributions from the Port of Los Angeles and state bond money also helped fund the project.

British Prime Minister Tony Blair and Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger visited the Port of Long Beach on July 31, where they announced a major environmental initiative aimed at reducing air pollution and cutting greenhouse gases in California and the United Kingdom.

Blair and Schwarzenegger toured the Port's BP oil terminal at Pier T, one of the Port of Long Beach's most environmentally friendly terminals. They met with top business and political leaders. Later that day, Blair and Schwarzenegger signed a cooperative agreement between the UK and California to promote clean energy, research new technologies and work together to reduce harmful air emissions.

Blair's visit to the BP terminal showcased many pollution-reduction measures being implemented at the Port of Long Beach.

The Port and BP have cooperated on several voluntary projects to reduce harmful air emissions from visiting ships. The Port's first project to provide electricity from the shore to visiting ships, also known as "cold-ironing," is under construction at the BP terminal.

The Port has completed its second urban reforestation project, at Hudson Elementary School in West Long Beach.

When Hudson students returned to school this month they were greeted with 132 additional trees planted to help screen noise from the Terminal Island Freeway.

Hudson was the second site selected for the Port's six-year, \$2.5-million urban reforestation program. The Port's tree-planting program is designed to beautify neighborhoods and reduce noise in communities surrounding the Port's primary transportation corridor, the 710 freeway.

The first project, at Coolidge Park, was completed this spring. The Port will plant trees at two locations a year for the next six years, at a cost of about \$200,000 for each site.

The Port is preparing to solicit public comment on its Pier S redevelopment project.

The Port will host a public meeting in October to solicit comments on the development of a marine terminal at Pier S, a now-vacant property on Terminal Island in the North Harbor area. After the "scoping" meeting, the Port will take public comments under advisement and then prepare a draft Environmental Impact Report. The draft EIR is expected to be released for public comment in March 2007.

In keeping with the Green Port Policy, the Port will ensure that a wide range of environmentally friendly measures are incorporated into the Pier S project.

Port officials welcomed "K" Line's Shanghai Bridge on August 4, its first call at International Transportation Service Inc.'s Pier G facility.

The 5,500-TEU vessel joins "K" Line's Calco C service in the transpacific trade. The vessel calls in Kobe, Ningbo, Xiamen, Yantian, Hong Kong, Long Beach and Oakland.

The Hyundai Highness was welcomed to the Port of Long Beach with a "first call" plaque on August 18 at California United Terminals' Pier E facility.

The 5,551-TEU vessel is part of Hyundai's Pacific Southwest Service, with a rotation of Yantian, Hong Kong, Kaoshiung, Busan, Long Beach and Oakland.

PierPASS Inc.'s successful OffPeak truck gate program, which recently celebrated its one-year anniversary, has extended the program to include export container shipments.

On August 7, after a considerable outreach effort and system trial, PierPASS began enforcing the Traffic Mitigation Fee for all export container shipments at the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. With export shipments now included in the PierPASS program, the percentage of container traffic moving during off-peak hours is expected to increase.

In its first year, the program diverted 2.5 million truck trips from peak daytime traffic by establishing night and Saturday gates at all 12 San Pedro Bay container terminals. An average of nearly 35 percent of cargo containers shipped at the ports were moved during the new OffPeak shifts, reducing truck traffic during daytime hours and lessening the ports' environmental impacts.

The first environmental covenants in the groundbreaking “Green Lease” agreement between the Port, “K” Line and International Transportation Service Inc. are set to begin this month.

ITS, under the new lease agreement, will require its vessel operators to use cleaner burning fuel in their auxiliary engines. ITS, which operates a facility at Pier G, is developing uniform reporting standards for vessels so that it can properly report its environmental compliance to the Port.

The historic “Green Lease” agreement, which also includes provisions for shoreside electricity (“cold-ironing”) and lower-emission cargo-handling equipment, will transform ITS into the most environmentally friendly facility at the Port.

Harbor Commission President James C. Hankla was a featured guest on an August 4 edition of KPCC’s Larry Mantle Air Talk radio program to discuss the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan.

The program featured Hankla, Port of Los Angeles Harbor Commission President David S. Freeman, an attorney from the Natural Resources Defense Council, a South Coast Air Quality Management District official and a San Pedro community representative. The one-hour program, titled “Can L.A. Ports Go Green?” is archived on the Web at <http://www.scpr.org/programs/airtalk/archives.html>

The California State Lands Commission will present its biennial symposium, Prevention First 2006, September 12 and 13 at the Long Beach Westin Hotel.

The conference will include seminars on port security, invasive species prevention, issues surrounding container cargo growth and more. For more information visit <http://www.slc.ca.gov/>.

PORT PEOPLE . . .

The Board of Harbor Commissioners has appointed J. Christopher Lytle, a former vice president with steamship line CMA CGM (America) Inc., as the Port’s Managing Director of Trade Relations and Port Operations.

As Managing Director, Lytle will oversee the Port’s Trade Relations and Port Operations Bureau, which includes the Communications, Trade Relations, Security and Maintenance divisions. Lytle succeeds Tom Teofilo, who retired in March.

As a vice president with CMA CGM, Lytle was responsible for the company’s entire West Coast operations, including significant marine and terminal operations at the Port of Long Beach and similar operations in Oakland, Tacoma and Seattle. He has also held executive positions at P&O Ports North America, Sea-Land Service, Inc. and the Denmark-based APM (Maersk) Terminals.

Thomas Jelenic, Port Senior Environmental Specialist, will be a keynote speaker at the Harbor Association of Industry & Commerce (HAIC) luncheon September 14 at the Reef Restaurant in Long Beach.

Jelenic will give a presentation on the landmark San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, the groundbreaking clean-air accord developed by the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles. For more information visit www.harborassn.com.

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