



From the Bridge
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Would it surprise you to learn that just one of the giant containerships that call at the Port of Long Beach could carry enough shoes to supply one pair for every person living in California? Or that the number of birds in the Long Beach harbor has more than doubled since the 1970s, thanks to the Port's environmental improvement efforts?

These are just two fascinating facts among many that describe our operations and environmental efforts at the Port of Long Beach. Would you like to know more? Then please come to our Green Port Open House on October 7.

The Open House is the biggest single public event we host at the Port. It is our way of showing you, the community, what it is we do here, from the cargo movement that supports hundreds of thousands of regional jobs to our Green Port environmental programs that are improving air, water, soil, wildlife habitats and more.

But the Green Port Open House isn't just educational: It's a fun-filled day of free activities, food, entertainment and giveaways for the entire family. We will also be providing 45-minute boat tours of the Port to see our environmental programs in action – you won't want to miss it.

Last year 2,000 members of the public attended our first Green Port Open House. If you were among them, please come again. This year there will be even more to see and do. And if you weren't able to come to last year's Open House, we especially encourage you to attend this year and bring your family, neighbors and friends. See you on October 7.



The San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan would reduce emis

Clean Air Plan Heade

Boards set to OK sweeping environmental pact

The landmark San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, after two months of public review and comment this summer, is now headed for approval by the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

The Clean Air Action plan, developed by the two ports with the participation of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the California Air Resources Board and the South Coast Air Quality Management District, is the most aggressive, comprehensive plan to reduce air emissions in the history of United States seaports.

The plan outlines a coordinated strategy to reduce air pollution from port-related sources by 50 percent or more in the next five years. It was released June 28 for public review and comment for 30 days, which was extended to 60 days by both ports to allow time for additional input.

“We received a lot of excellent feedback and ideas from community members, elected officials, industry, nonprofit groups and other public agencies that share our goal of reducing air pollution,” said Harbor Commissioner James C. Hankla. “Those ideas will help make the plan even stronger.”

After revisions by the ports' staff, the Clean Air Action Plan will head to the harbor commission boards at the two ports for a vote by late October or early November, Hankla said.



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d for Approval

The Clean Air Action Plan calls for a variety of innovative strategies and hundreds of millions of dollars of investment by the ports and public and private entities. Specifically targeted are the ships, trucks, trains, cargo-handling equipment and harbor craft that serve the ports and help transport goods to businesses and consumers.



Trains are to use cleaner fuels under CAAP.

For more details on the Clean Air Action Plan, please visit the Environment/Air Quality section of the Port of Long Beach web site, at www.polb.com. The site features an overview of the Plan in English and Spanish, complete technical report, fact sheet, news release and PowerPoint presentation.



Green Flags Flying at Port

More ships than ever at the Port of Long Beach will be flying Green Flags for environmental achievements.

The Port awards Green Flags to recognize ships and vessel operators who voluntarily reduce ship speeds in the harbor area. The slower speed limit reduces pollution from visiting ships.

Compliance with the Green Flag program continues to improve, climbing to about 80 percent of all ships, up from about 65 percent in early 2006. The Port's goal is 100 percent compliance, which will reduce smog-forming nitrogen oxides (NOx) by nearly 500 tons a year.

In February, the Board of Harbor Commissioners approved the Green Flag incentive program to encourage compliance with the voluntary ship speed reduction program, which has been in place since 2001.

Under the Green Flag program, ships that observe a 12-knot speed limit within 20 miles of the Port during an entire year of voyages are awarded Green Flags to recognize their contributions to improved air quality. Ocean carriers, who operate the individual ships, can qualify for reduced dockage rates if 90 percent or more of their vessels comply with the speed limit for a year.

"Flying the Green Flag has become a symbol of pride for many vessels," said Harbor Commission James C. Hankla. "And the reduced fees offer a strong additional incentive for ocean carriers to comply with the program."

To see the full results of the Green Flag program, visit the Port's Green Flag web page at: http://polb.com/environment/air_quality/vessels/default.asp.