



Green Port Policy To Receive Top Environmental Award

AAPA honors Port for comprehensive eco-friendly strategy

August 7, 2006

The Port of Long Beach's landmark Green Port Policy, a 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) next month.

The Port will receive AAPA's Comprehensive Environmental Management Award of Excellence September 13, 2006 at the association's Annual Convention in New Orleans.

"It's a tremendous honor to be recognized by AAPA for the Green Port Policy," said Long Beach Harbor Commission President James Hankla. "Green Port is showing us a new way to do business and how to make a great Port even better."

"Green Port has set a new standard throughout the industry," said Port Executive Director Richard Steinke, "showing how seaports can become better environmental stewards without compromising their economic vitality."

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 policy serves as a guide for decision making and establishes a framework for environmentally friendly Port operations.

The Green Port Policy includes five overall guiding principles, such as protecting the community from the harmful impacts of port operations and distinguishing the Port as a leader in environmental stewardship. The policy includes six basic program elements, including wildlife, air, water, soils/sediments, community engagement and sustainability. Also included in the policy are individual program goals, metrics (scientific measurements of the Port's environmental progress), and a commitment to regular reporting.

The first Green Port Annual Report, covering the first-year accomplishments of the policy, was released in May.

While the Port of Long Beach has had a 20-year record of environmental protection programs, in 2004 the Board of Harbor Commissioners directed Port staff to create a new, improved environmental policy that would encompass wide-ranging environmental goals and provide a clear statement of the environmental ethic needed to guide Port development and operations.

"With the Green Port Policy we brought our environmental protection and

enhancement efforts to a new level,” said Robert Kanter, the Port’s Director of Planning and Environmental Affairs.

The Port of Long Beach previously won an AAPA environmental award in 2004 for its Diesel Emissions Reduction Program, which replaced or retrofitted more than 600 pieces of cargo-handling equipment at Port terminals.

The Comprehensive Environmental Management Award of Excellence is the AAPA’s top environmental award. This year’s winners were the Port of Long Beach and the Port of Portland (Oregon), recognized for its environmental programs.

The AAPA is the leading organization representing public ports throughout the U.S., Canada, Latin America and the Caribbean.

The Port of Long Beach is one of the world’s busiest seaports, a gateway for \$100 billion a year in trade that supports 316,000 regional jobs and \$5 billion a year in tax revenues. Through its awarding-winning Green Port Policy, the Port is also a global leader in environmental stewardship.

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