

# *tie lines* – November 2006

A monthly newsletter from the Port of Long Beach

## **AROUND THE PORT . . .**

**Nearly 5,000 visitors attended the Port of Long Beach's 2nd Annual Green Port Open House on October 7, more than doubling the previous year's attendance record.**

The annual Open House is a day-long festival that provides the community an opportunity to see the Port in action. This year's Open House featured dozens of displays highlighting the Port's Green Port Policy environmental programs and cargo operations, as well as boat tours, live entertainment and children's activities. Many of the Port's partners from private industry and government participated. About 2,000 visitors attended the first Open House in 2005.

**The Green Port Open House included presentations on the Port's many environmental programs, including air quality and traffic improvements, water and soil enhancements, wildlife habitat protection, community engagement and sustainability programs.**

"We want the community to see that we are committed to making this the world's greenest port," said Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners President James Hankla.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Green Port Open House will be held in October 2007.

**Real-time air quality information at the Port of Long Beach is now available online, at [www.polb.com](http://www.polb.com), as part of a comprehensive program to provide the public and port staff with the tools to track air pollutants and air quality improvements.**

The Port's web site offers real-time information on six air pollutants along with weather information. Historical comparisons also show air quality information on past dates and times. The air quality information is accessible 24 hours a day through the Port's web site, [www.polb.com](http://www.polb.com).

**The air-monitoring system is designed to provide immediate public access to detailed air quality information and to collect data that will help the Port improve its air quality programs.**

The system's data collection and reporting methods are consistent with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and California Air Resources Board guidelines.

The Port's system was developed to expand upon other regional air monitoring efforts in the South Coast Air Basin, including those conducted by the South Coast Air Quality Management District, CARB and the Port of Los Angeles, by using compatible and complementary monitoring systems.

**The Port of Long Beach has received five top awards from the City-County Communications and Marketing Association (3CMA), the nation's leading public sector communications organization.**

*Re:Port*, the Port's community newsletter, received the special Ray Bancroft Award for the most outstanding communications newsletter in the nation. The Bancroft is given to the best of the best newsletters among the year's 1st place 3CMA Savvy Award

winning newsletters.

Judges also gave 1st place Savvy Awards to the *Green Port Annual Report*, a publication documenting the Port's environmental achievements, and *Julio's New Ride*, an educational video showing how international trade links countries and cultures. The 2005 Green Port Open House won a Silver Circle Award (second place) in 3CMA's special events category.

The Port received the awards October 12 at the 3CMA national conference in Irving, Texas.

**Re:Port, which earned 3CMA's Bancroft and Savvy awards, is a quarterly community newsletter distributed to 140,000 households in the Long Beach area.**

The *Green Port Annual Report*, published in Spring 2006, documents the Port's 2005 environmental improvement efforts under the Green Port Policy.

*Julio's New Ride*, a 2005 educational video developed with the input of Long Beach-area educators, has been incorporated into the 12th grade economics curriculum throughout the Long Beach Unified School District.

**After several months of record-breaking imports, terminal operators at the Port of Long Beach reported a slowdown in the growth rate of container cargo volume in September.**

The total number of cargo containers increased by less than one percent in September to 614,739 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs), compared with the same month a year ago. Imports increased by 1.3 percent to 317,661 TEUs. Exports increased by 1.7 percent to 98,660 TEUs.

The number of empty containers, nearly all headed overseas to be refilled with products, decreased by 0.7 percent to 198,418 TEUs, from the same month a year ago.

**Port trade analysts said the September cargo figures appear to reflect common "spikes" in peak-season activity.**

The numbers, they said, indicate that this year's peak season import activity may be concentrated at the beginning of the season, in August, barring a late-season surge in October.

In August, imports jumped by a record-breaking 13.6 percent as overall cargo container movement increased to 675,058 TEUs.

August is traditionally the beginning of the peak shipping season that extends through October, when importers fill their shelves with extra clothing, toys and other products for end-of-the-year gift-giving.

**Compliance with the Port's Green Flag program climbed to 87 percent in August, a new high for the nearly one-year-old environmental program.**

The Green Flag program rewards ship operators for reducing vessel speeds in the harbor area, which helps cut air pollution.

In the most current available figures, car carriers led the way with 100 percent compliance, followed by cruise ships at 91 percent, container ships at 88 percent, bulk vessels at 82 percent and tankers at 80 percent.

**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, which 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. 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](http://polb.com/environment/air_quality/vessels/default.asp).

**The latest episode of "Pulse of the Port," the Port of Long Beach's award-winning television program, is now available online.**

The latest episode includes a profile of Harbor Commission President James Hankla, an update on the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan and news about the Port's peak season shipping operations.

To access the program, visit [www.polb.com](http://www.polb.com) and scroll down the home page to the "Featured Video" link.

**The Greening of California's "2006 Greening Award" was presented to the Port of Long Beach in October for the development of the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan and other air quality improvements.**

The Greening of California is a nonprofit group comprised of prominent environmental organizations. The group is affiliated with the California League of Conservation Voters, an environmental and political advocacy organization.

The 2006 Greening Award is the second major recognition for the Port in the past two months for the Clean Air Action Plan. In September the Port was awarded the prestigious "Air Quality Improvement Award" from Breathe California of Los Angeles County, a nonprofit research, education and advocacy organization formerly known as the American Lung Association of Los Angeles County.

**A final draft of the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, now in development after extensive public review and comment this summer, is expected to be presented to the governing boards of the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles later this month.**

The Clean Air Action Plan, which was developed by the two ports with the participation of the federal Environmental Protection Agency, California Air Resources Board and South Coast Air Quality Management District, is an aggressive, comprehensive plan to reduce emissions from port-related sources by 50 percent in the next five years. The ports plan to give the public additional time to review the final document before it is formally considered for adoption by the two boards.

**Beginning this month, the Port's customer service liaisons will no longer be known as "wharfingers."**

Instead, they will be known as "Terminal Services Representatives." Port officials said the name change is designed to better reflect their job description and replace an outdated and often confusing maritime term.

Terminal Services Representatives, who work in the Port's Trade Relations Division, provide customer service to Port tenants, inspect Port properties and ensure lease compliance, among other duties.

**BP will construct three recovery wells as part of the company's ongoing efforts to clean up an oil leak from an underground pipe that occurred below the Port's Pier B railyard.**

BP has recovered more than 90 percent of 1,000 barrels of spilled oil, which was discovered September 8 in a BP pipeline. The leak was contained with no harm to humans or wildlife.

Port operations experienced no significant disruptions as a result of the spill.

Only minimal train delays occurred as two storage rail tracks were temporarily taken out of service during the cleanup.

**The International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 13 was honored by the South Coast Air Quality Management District last month at its 18th Annual Clean Air Awards.**

The ILWU was recognized October 18 for its environmental contributions in the category of "Promotion of Good Environmental Stewardship." The union has been a strong supporter of clean-air efforts at the Port of Long Beach and other West Coast seaports. The ILWU has endorsed the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan.

**PORT PEOPLE . . .**

**Long Beach Harbor Commissioner Dr. Mike Walter and his wife, Arline, have received the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Long Beach branch.**

The Walters were honored for their long record of community service, contributions to NAACP youth charities, and ongoing support for the mission and vision of the organization, NAACP officials said. The Walters received the award at the NAACP's 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Freedom Fund Awards Dinner earlier this month.

The Walters are well known in Long Beach for their community service and philanthropy. Their contributions to charities and educational institutions include a \$2.1 million donation to Cal State Long Beach in 2004. The university honored them by naming its iconic sports complex the "Mike and Arline Walter Pyramid."

**Port of Long Beach Executive Director Richard D. Steinke was named "2006 Good Scout of the Year" October 11 by the Long Beach Area Council Boy Scouts of America.**

Steinke was recognized at the Scouts' annual Shipping and Transportation Dinner for his 20-year public service record, which includes nearly 10 years serving as the Port's Executive Director.

Along with his professional accomplishments, Steinke was honored for his active participation in the Long Beach community and support of many programs that benefit youth and community affairs.

The annual Shipping and Transportation Dinner raises funds to benefit Scouting programs of the Long Beach Area Council Boy Scouts of America.

**The Board of Harbor Commissioners was honored by Long Beach's International City Theatre at an October 21 fund-raising dinner.**

Theater officials thanked the commissioners, James Hankla, Mario Cordero, John Hancock, Dr. Mike Walter and Doris Topsy-Elvord, for their international leadership in developing seaport environmental programs such as Long Beach's Green Port Policy, and for the commissioners support for community arts groups.

**Help us improve the monthly Tie Lines newsletter by taking a survey at the Port web site at [http://polb.com/about/publications/tie\\_lines\\_newsletter.asp](http://polb.com/about/publications/tie_lines_newsletter.asp).**

Let us know what you find interesting in Tie Lines, what kinds of stories you'd like to see, or anything else you would like to suggest.