

tie lines – May 2007

A monthly newsletter from the Port of Long Beach

AROUND THE PORT . . .

A proposed “clean trucks program,” which would reduce air pollution from harbor trucks by more than 80 percent within five years, has been introduced by the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles.

The ports held the inaugural meeting of a 24-member stakeholder group April 12 to gather input on the proposed program, which is being developed by the staffs of both ports. The Clean Trucks Program, outlined in the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, is expected to be presented to the harbor commissions of both ports this summer. For more information on the clean trucks proposal please visit the Port of Long Beach web site at www.polb.com.

The plan calls for port drayage truck owners to scrap and replace the oldest of about 16,000 trucks working at the ports and retrofit the others with the assistance of a port-sponsored grant subsidy.

As proposed, the program would only allow port-licensed concessionaires, operating "clean trucks," to enter all port terminals, including container and non-container facilities, without having to pay a truck impact gate fee. Port-licensed concessionaires that continue to work in the ports with older, more polluting trucks would be required to pay a truck impact gate fee. Year by year, the oldest trucks would be barred from the ports until only trucks meeting the "clean truck" standard would be permitted.

The proposed clean-truck plan will require major changes in the port drayage trucking industry, but it must be done to achieve cleaner air in communities surrounding the ports, said Harbor Commission President James C. Hankla.

“Diesel-powered harbor trucks are a major source of air pollution that absolutely must be cleaned up,” Hankla said. Port Executive Director Richard Steinke added that the overall goal of the program is to find “fair, equitable solutions that will accomplish our shared goals of moving cargo efficiently and securely, while improving air quality and reducing health risks.”

The Port of Long Beach has been named the best seaport in North America by readers of *Cargo News Asia*, for the second year in a row and the 11th time in the last 12 years.

The world's top ports in the 2007 Asian Freight and Supply Chain Awards were the Port of Long Beach (North America), the Port of Singapore (Asia), the Port of Rotterdam (Europe) and the Port of Jebel Ali, Dubai (Middle East).

Cargo News Asia is a news source for logistics and supply chain professionals in the Asia Pacific region. Its 12,500 readers vote yearly on the top seaports, airports, container terminals, shipping lines, logistics services and other entities that serve the cargo and freight industries.

The Port co-sponsored a neighborhood celebration in Long Beach's Wrigley neighborhood May 5 as part of its "Harbor Arbor" community outreach program.

Nearly 500 residents attended the event, which celebrated a week-long Earth Day cleanup and landscaping project that planted more than 325 trees and shrubs in the neighborhood. The project was hosted by the Port and Long Beach City Council District 7, in partnership with the City of Long Beach Parks, Recreation and Marine and Public Works, L.A. County Public Works and Long Beach Organic.

Under the "Harbor Arbor" program, the Port has dedicated \$2.5 million for neighborhood tree-planting and beautification projects. Last year the Port provided trees and landscaping for Hudson School and Coolidge Park. The projects are designed to provide trees, shrubs and other sustainable landscaping to improve neighborhoods surrounding the 710 Freeway, one of the primary transportation corridors for goods movement at the Port.

Port terminals reported a 3.6 percent decrease in container cargo movement in March compared to the same month a year ago.

The decrease was attributed to a seasonal drop in imports following the Chinese New Year on February 18, when Chinese and other Asian businesses shut down for at least a week. With a typical transit time of two weeks for goods crossing the Pacific Ocean, Chinese New Year led to a slowdown in import cargo traffic in March. (Chinese New Year is tied to the lunar calendar, so the dates fluctuate from year to year.)

Port terminals moved a total of 541,107 twenty-foot equivalent container units (TEUs) in March, a 3.6 percent decrease over the same month a year ago.

Imported containers decreased by 10.4 percent, to 252,998 TEUs, while containers bound for export increased by 5.7 percent, to 125,529 TEUs, the Port's top monthly export total ever. The movement of empty containers, most of which are sent overseas to be refilled with products, increased by 1.6 percent, to 160,026 TEUs.

Robert A. Malone, President and CEO of BP America, Inc., will receive the Port of Long Beach's highest honor, the Honorary Port Pilot Award, on May 22.

The award is given to a select group of individuals who have provided global leadership in the field of international commerce. The award is named for the port pilots who are entrusted to safely guide cargo ships in and out of the harbor.

Since 1954, the Port has honored individuals for their leadership and achievements in international trade. The Port has presented the award to CEOs of leading corporations, prime ministers, ambassadors, members of Congress, Cabinet officials and presidents, including President Ronald Reagan.

BP operates a petroleum terminal at Pier T. Later this year, the terminal is scheduled to become the first at the Port of Long Beach to use shoreside electricity to reduce air pollution from visiting ships.

The Alameda Corridor celebrated its fifth anniversary in April, noting the significant air quality and traffic benefits the Corridor has provided since opening in 2002.

By improving the efficiency of transporting cargo to and from the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles, and eliminating more than 200 rail crossings, the Alameda Corridor has reduced air pollution by more than 6,600 tons in the past five years.

More than 83,000 trains have used the Corridor since its opening, increasing from about 14,000 trains a year in 2003 to about 20,000 trains in 2006. More than 9.8

million containers (about 17.6 million TEUs) have moved through the corridor since it opened. The Corridor now transports about 14,000 TEUs a day, nearly a third of the two ports' average daily volume.

Each train on the Alameda Corridor carries the equivalent cargo of about 250 to 280 trucks, thereby reducing pollution and decreasing the number of trucks needed to move the same amount of cargo.

The chances of a tsunami hitting the San Pedro Bay are extremely slight, a new study has concluded.

The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles commissioned an independent, scientific study of the potential impacts of tsunamis in the San Pedro Bay following the Indonesian tsunami incident of 2004.

The study, conducted by Moffatt & Nichol and peer-reviewed by leading scientists and engineers, was released in April. It concluded that the ports could experience tsunamis, but they are very rare. Because of the orientation of the bay, the report found, the waves generated by a tsunami would not be large enough to cause significant flooding or structural damage at the port complex.

The California Association of Public Information Officials (CAPIO) presented three top awards to the Port of Long Beach's Communications Division in April.

The Port won awards for its quarterly community newsletter, *Re:Port*, its cable television program, *Pulse of the Port*, and its public boat tour program. The awards were presented at the CAPIO annual conference on April 19.

Don't miss Harbor Commission President James C. Hankla on *Straight Talk with Art Levine*, a weekly half hour talk show broadcast on cable systems in Long Beach and 34 surrounding cities.

On the program, Hankla discusses the Port's Green Port Policy and recently enacted Clean Air Action Plan, the economic impact of the Port and port security.

The episode airs on cable TV during the first week of May, and on the web at www.straighttalktv.com.

International Transportation Service, Inc., which operates a container terminal at Pier G, has upgraded its web site to include vessel schedules, the status of cargo and real-time camera views of gate-traffic conditions.

The new ITS web site is designed to provide customers with up-to-the-minute cargo information, company news and many other features 24 hours a day, company officials said. The site can be accessed at www.itslb.com.

PORT PEOPLE . . .

The Board of Harbor Commissioners has appointed Samara Ashley, a public relations executive and former aide to then-State Senator Betty Karnette, as the Port's Director of Government Affairs.

Ashley fills a vacancy left when Carl Kemp resigned to become a partner with Englander & Associates Public Relations.

As Director of Government Affairs, Ashley will be responsible for advising Port Executive Director Richard D. Steinke and the Harbor Commission on Port-related legislative issues and assisting in the formulation of the Port's legislative agenda.

Dr. Robert Kanter, the Port's Managing Director of Environmental Affairs and Planning, received the Harbor Association of Industry and Commerce's "Environmental Leadership" award.

HAIC officials said the award recognizes Kanter's environmental leadership efforts, which are setting a standard for "best sustainability practices" throughout the port and global maritime industries. The leadership award was presented to Kanter and Dr. Ralph Appy of the Port of Los Angeles at the association's April 19 luncheon.

Fumito Kawamata has been named President of International Transportation Service Inc., succeeding the retiring Sho Ishitobi.

Kawamata, formerly senior executive vice president of ITS, is responsible for overseeing ITS' terminal operations in Long Beach, Oakland, Washington and New Jersey.

Ishitobi joined the ITS affiliate "K" Line in 1966 and assisted in the negotiations of the first ITS lease agreement at the Port of Long Beach. In his retirement announcement, he cited the 2006 Green Lease agreement between ITS and the Port of Long Beach as one of his proudest career accomplishments.

Edward Yau, the Port's overseas representative based in China, has been selected as president of U.S. States & Ports Association, Greater China (USSPA).

The USSPA promotes trade development, investment and business activity between the U.S., Hong Kong, China, Taiwan and Southeast Asia.

Gao Weijie has retired as Chairman of China Ocean Shipping Company (COSCO) Americas Inc.

He joined COSCO in 1965 and served the company in various positions. In the late 1970s he was involved with COSCO's expansion into the containerized shipping business. He was appointed chairman of COSCO Americas Inc., in 2004.

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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.