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SAN PEDRO BAY PORTS PARTNER WITH APL TO TEST SHIPBOARD BALLAST WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM

LOS ANGELES & LONG BEACH, Calif. – July 6, 2007 – The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach, along with the California State Lands Commission and the University of Maryland, are partnering with shipping line APL to test a shipboard ballast water treatment system designed to remove non-native species from ballast water to prevent their introduction into harbor waters.

Each port has agreed to contribute \$250,000 to the project, in addition to \$100,000 in funding from the California State Lands Commission. The total cost of the project is nearly \$1.2 million. The University of Maryland secured a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) grant for nearly \$400,000 and APL has committed \$100,000 in funding plus the use of its containership the *APL England* for the project.

Ballast water in cargo ships, while highly regulated under U.S. Coast Guard jurisdiction, is often the source of introduction of aquatic invasive species into local waters. Non-native species have the potential to cause tremendous environmental damage by out-competing native species and changing the balance of the local ecosystem. To date, more than 46 non-native species of marine plants and animals have been identified in the San Pedro Bay.

The shipboard ballast water treatment system will be designed to remove aquatic invasive species through technology that removes oxygen and reduces pH levels of ballast water, thus destroying the organisms. In addition, this project will test technology that will reduce ballast tank corrosion.

Current regulations call for ballast water to be exchanged in the open ocean. Regulations for onboard treatment of ballast water are being developed by federal and state agencies, and the San Pedro Bay Ports are hoping to accelerate the development of shipboard treatment solutions by participating in this test project.

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Ballast Water Treatment System

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"Preventing the introduction of non-native species into the harbor ecosystem is one of our top environmental priorities," said Port of Long Beach Executive Director Richard D. Steinke. "This is an exciting technology that promises a safe, effective way to achieve this goal."

"We're looking at numerous operational areas where environmental enhancements can be achieved, and ballast water treatments systems are a great area for collaboration on research. We are happy to be partnering on this project with our neighbor port and APL," said Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D., Port of Los Angeles executive director.

"We're investigating ballast water treatment in a number of projects," said Capt. Tey Yoh Huat, Vice President of Technical Services for APL, "but this one holds special promise in addressing the problem of invasive species."

This project is just one of many groundbreaking environmental initiatives undertaken by the San Pedro Bay Ports. The ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles adopted the landmark San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan (CAAP) in 2006 to curb port-related air pollution from trucks, ships, locomotives and other equipment. A model for seaports around the world, the CAAP is the boldest air quality initiative by any seaport, consisting of wide-reaching measures to significantly reduce air emissions and health risks while allowing for the development of much-needed port efficiency projects. For information on the joint Clean Air Action Plan see the websites of the two ports, www.polb.com and www.portoflosangeles.org.

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For More Information, Contact:

Theresa Adams Lopez, Port of Los Angeles Director of Media Relations
(310) 732-3507 or tadams-lopez@portla.org

Art Wong, Port of Long Beach Assistant Director of Communications/Public
Information Officer, (562) 590-4123 or wong@polb.com

Mike Zampa, APL Director of Corporate Communications, (510) 272-7380 or
Michael_zampa@apl.com