



Mayor, Port Officials to Expand Global “Green Port” Network

Foster, Commissioners promote environmentalism on European trade mission

March 31, 2008

Seeking to further establish a worldwide, collaborative network of environmentally friendly seaports and promote the Port of Long Beach’s “green” initiatives on a global stage, Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster, Harbor Commissioners and Port officials will embark today, March 31, 2008, on a two-week trade mission to Europe’s largest seaports.

The trade mission will include summits at the major European ports of Hamburg and Rotterdam, where Port officials will sign an agreement to share best environmental practices, work together on ways to reduce greenhouse gases and promote environmentally sustainable seaport technologies.

The delegation will also meet with the International Maritime Organization in London to push for higher global standards for clean ship fuels. Further, the trade mission includes a summit with the United Nations Environmental Program in Geneva, Switzerland to discuss global warming initiatives.

In addition the delegation will meet with multiple European shipping companies that use the Port of Long Beach to discuss the Port’s latest environmental initiatives under the Green Port Policy and Clean Air Action Plan.

“Because Long Beach is a world leader among seaports for its environmental policies, it is critical that we build relationships with other global leaders such as the ports of Rotterdam and Hamburg,” Foster said. “It is also crucial that we urge the IMO to adopt tougher environmental standards that will benefit Long Beach and other port communities throughout the world.”

The delegation will include Mayor Foster, Harbor Commissioners Mario Cordero and Nick Sramek, Port Executive Director Richard D. Steinke, Executive Officer to the Board Alex Cherin and Trade Relations Director Don Snyder.

In 2007, the Port signed a similar “Memorandum of Understanding” environmental agreement with Port of Shenzhen terminal operator Yantian International Container

Terminals that was the first comprehensive environmental exchange agreement between two global seaports.

The Port's current trade mission aims to expand that network to better share best environmental practices, programs and technical information with other environmentally friendly seaports throughout the world. It is the first time since 2004 that Port commissioners and other high-ranking city officials have conducted a trade mission to Europe.