



Inventory Shows Increase in Air Pollution Reversal expected with Port initiatives to improve air quality

July 21, 2008

The Port of Long Beach released its latest emissions inventory Monday, July 21, detailing air pollution from cargo-related operations for 2006, including first-time estimates of greenhouse gases that will be used to map a plan to reduce these climate-altering emissions.

The inventory of ship, train, truck and other goods movement activity at the Port showed an overall 6 percent increase air pollution in 2006 compared to the previous year, during a period when container cargo volume increased by 9 percent.

While the port authorities do not operate the cargo-handling equipment (they lease terminals to private operators), the Port of Long Beach and Port of Los Angeles approved the Clean Air Action Plan designed to cut port-related air pollution by at least 45 percent by 2012. The Plan was adopted in November 2006, and the implementation of measures to improve air quality began after that.

These measures include a program that started July 1 of this year to switch ocean-going vessels to cleaner fuels. Earlier this year, the Port's switching railroad completed a transition to a new fleet of cleaner locomotives. This fall, the Port begins a Clean Trucks Program to replace the drayage fleet and cut truck-related pollution by 80 percent. The proposed Middle Harbor redevelopment would cut two terminals' emissions by 50 percent.

"We need initiatives such as the Clean Air Action Plan and the Middle Harbor Redevelopment Project to improve air quality," said James Hankla, President of the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners. "It's critical that we move forward aggressively with these projects, not just to slow the increase in pollution but to reverse it."

This is the third inventory of Port-related emissions. The first covered 2002, the second was for 2005. The results of the 2007 inventory are expected later this year. Beginning next year, the inventories will be released on an annual basis.

The inventories were designed to measure particulate matter and smog-forming emissions that affect the local area and the Southern California region. This is the first inventory tallies greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide and methane. To see the inventory, go to www.polb.com.

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