



Port Releases 2006 Air Quality Study

Inventory underscores need for Port's anti-pollution initiatives

7/28/08

The Port of Long Beach released its latest air pollution study on Monday, July 21, detailing pollution from cargo-related operations for 2006. The "emissions inventory" also includes first-time estimates of greenhouse gases that will be used to map a plan to reduce them in coordination with City of Long Beach efforts.

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

The study period predates the implementation of the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, adopted by the Port of Long Beach and Port of Los Angeles in November 2006. The aggressive measures in the CAAP will cut port-related air pollution by at least 45 percent by 2012, from 2006 levels. While port authorities do not operate the cargo-handling equipment (they lease terminals to private operators) and do not have the ability to create clean-air laws, the CAAP outlines strategies such as tariffs, leases, incentives and voluntary efforts to clean up the air quickly.

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' air pollution by 50 percent.

"This study shows just how critical our clean-air projects are for the environment," said Harbor Commission President James C. Hankla. "It is imperative that we move forward aggressively with projects such as the Clean Trucks Program 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 annually.

The inventories, consistent with the Port's Green Port Policy, were designed to measure particulate matter and smog-forming emissions that affect the local area and region. The studies provide consistent data to report on air quality improvement. This is the first inventory that tallies greenhouse gases, including carbon dioxide and methane. To see the inventory, visit <http://www.polb.com/>.

Contact: Art Wong, Port of Long Beach Assistant Director of Communications/Public Information Officer, (562) 590-4123, (562) 619-5665 (cell), or wong@polb.com.