



## News Release

# Port Upgrades Poised to Add Jobs

## 'State of the Port' Address delivered Friday in Long Beach

January 30, 2009



Amid a worldwide recession and slowing global trade, the Port of Long Beach, said Executive Director Richard D. Steinke, is doing all it can to provide a local economic boost by working on projects that will secure the Port's future as a leader in the industry.

In his annual "State of the Port" address on Friday, January 30, Steinke said although global economic turmoil has led to a decline in cargo volumes, the Port remains committed to its plans for modernization

and environmental improvement projects.

Not only will the projects support thousands of construction jobs at present, but they will also add tens of thousands of jobs to the goods movement industry job base in the region.

"The world will rebound from this economic downturn, and when it does, we will be frontrunners because of the investments we are making today," said Steinke, at a luncheon hosted by the Long Beach Area Chamber of Commerce's International Business Association.

The Port of Long Beach has been in the planning process for these projects for some years, well before the start of the current recession. The long-planned infrastructure development projects total about \$2.6 billion worth of construction in the coming years.

The improved terminals, roadways, channels and railways will not only make Long Beach more attractive to the shipping industry, they will also lessen the Port's impact on the environment.

For example, the proposed Middle Harbor Redevelopment Project is a 10-year, \$750-million project to remake two aging container docks into one environmentally efficient terminal. The project would not only generate 1,000 construction jobs a year, but would also add 14,000 goods movement jobs to the Southern California region when it is completed. The project will enable the new terminal to move twice as much cargo with half the air pollution.

Other projects include a proposal to create a new cargo container terminal on Terminal

Island at Pier S, and to replace the aged Gerald Desmond Bridge, which connects downtown Long Beach to Terminal Island.

To see the entire "State of the Port" archived Webcast, go to [www.polb.com](http://www.polb.com) or click [here](#).

To view the PowerPoint document, click [here](#).

View and download the script of the presentation by click [here](#).