

letter from the executive director



Problem solving at the Port of Long Beach has always involved embracing new and bold ideas. Nowhere is this more evident than in the role the Port plays as a steward of the environment. Leadership, engagement, and aggressive action are all parts of the critical role we play. We are committed to guaranteeing that the benefits of the Port -- to the community, region, and nation -- are balanced with the well being of our environment.

This mission carries a heavy dual responsibility, to the state that entrusts us with the protection and development of the harbor district and to the local community that we directly serve. We are charged with developing the port as a state economic resource while at the same time we must defend the integrity of the environment. Both are roles that we take with the utmost seriousness.

After all, this is not just where we work; it is also where we live.

In the past two decades, the Port has spent nearly \$1.5 billion mitigating and creating land in an environmentally sensitive and responsible manner. Just one example is our Anaheim Bay mitigation project, where we restored and enlarged more than 116 acres of wetlands.

Millions more in Port funds have gone to revitalize the health of the local ocean water and assure that it will remain clean for future generations. In the past decade, the Port has spent over \$200 million on alternative transportation solutions and physical improvements to reduce air pollution in the Long Beach area. A prime example is the aggressive leadership that the Port took in solving the petroleum coke problem. When the local community raised concerns about open storage of petroleum coke at the Port, and the dust created by it, we took the lead and established a new working philosophy for not just coke shipments, but many more of our bulk products. The comprehensive \$34 million program we developed has resulted in dramatic reductions of Port-generated coke dust emissions.

Another example was our development of a program to reduce vessel speed within the harbor area, thus reducing vessel engine emissions. This voluntary program highlights the innovative and creative ways our staff solves real life problems. I would like to encourage you to read about more solutions we have applied toward what we call the "sustainable environment," featured in "The Greening of the Port," on page 6 of this publication.

We actively engage area-residents in pursuit of opinion, ideas, and feedback. One example is our Community Consultative Committee. These members of the public are actively involved in the monitoring of our coke dust reduction programs. These, and the programs listed above, are all examples of the Port's commitment to the environment. For us, this is just the way we do things.

We know that we must reshape ourselves within the environment and not the other way around. We must learn to balance our impacts and mitigate those of others. And we must learn to sustain the environment because we are all part of it and responsible for it. This is the only way to balance our needs with the needs of the environment.

Richard Steinke
Executive Director, Port of Long Beach

features



More than three years after construction began, the Port's first Mega-Terminal has opened for business.

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Spending hundreds of millions of dollars on environmental projects in the past decade, the Port's color is green.

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Keeping the trucks flowing and the cans going, dock workers are the arms, legs, and backs behind the scenes.

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ex-l.b. top cop named interim port security chief

Former Long Beach Police Chief William C. Ellis has taken the helm of the Port of Long Beach Security Division on an interim basis while a search is conducted for a permanent replacement.

Ellis, who served with the Long Beach Police Department for 31 years, including a stint as the city’s top cop from 1991 to 1996, succeeds Robert M. Barker as the port’s security chief.

Ellis will head the port’s 40-person Security Division during a previously announced review by an independent consultant who will make recommendations on the division’s structure, authority and staffing needs in the aftermath of Sept. 11.

port chalks up record cargo numbers in 2002

Setting the second best total in port history, shipping terminals at the Port of Long Beach saw a 1.4 percent cargo volume increase during 2002, handling the equivalent of 4,524,038 twenty-foot-long container units.

“Overall cargo growth was strong in 2002, and we expect the growth to continue in 2003,” said port Executive Director Richard D. Steinke.

For the year, inbound container cargo climbed 1.2 percent. The port’s imports include such retail goods as consumer electronics, toys, clothing, shoes and household products. Outbound container cargo dropped 10.2 percent. The port’s leading exports include factory machinery and raw materials. With the imbalance in trade, the number of empty containers, nearly all headed back overseas to be re-filled with merchandise, jumped 11.9 percent.

All Long Beach terminals recorded major gains for the year.



port employees give to the needy

Port of Long Beach employees contributed close to 100 Christmas gifts during a holiday toy drive throughout the Harbor Department.

The collected toys went to 52 client families of the City of Long Beach’s Center for Families and Youth, part of the City’s Department of Health and Human Services. Port staff members were asked to donate the gifts as part of the CFY’s Annual “Winter Holiday Festival” Toy Drive.

The toy drive is an outreach of the CFY’s Family Preservation program that is designed to strengthen and preserve families whose children are at risk of placement in out-of-home care.

During the holiday season the 300+ employees of the Port also gathered more than a hundred pounds of canned food for various Long Beach shelters.