

 **THE PORT OF
LONG BEACH** NEWS RELEASE

COMMUNICATIONS DIVISION * 925 HARBOR PLAZA * P.O. BOX 570 * LONG BEACH CA 90801

**BOARD GIVES FINAL APPROVAL TO TARIFF RATE HIKE
General Increase Is Port's First Since 1999**

Dec. 29, 2003

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners has approved a general tariff rate increase of 5 percent, effective Jan. 1, 2004. The general rate hike is the first for the Port of Long Beach since October 1999.

The Board of Harbor Commissioners' Maritime Committee had voted preliminary approval for the increase in November. The tariffs include shipping service fees such as wharfage, dockage, storage and demurrage. Excluded from the newly approved increase are pilotage (which was increased in August), passenger fees, and the vessel traffic service (which is administered by the Marine Exchange).

The board acted after the California Association of Port Authorities voted to authorize member ports to increase tariff charges by as much as 5 percent beginning Jan. 1, 2004. CAPA is composed of the state's 11 publicly owned commercial ports: Humboldt Bay, Hueneme, Long Beach, Los Angeles, Oakland, Redwood City, Richmond, Sacramento, San Diego, San Francisco and Stockton.

In authorizing the increase, CAPA cited sharp increases in infrastructure and security costs to meet soaring trade volumes and new threats from terrorism. In the last four years, the Port of Long Beach has invested more than \$700 million on infrastructure improvements and tens of millions of dollars more for tighter security.

The ports of Los Angeles and Oakland also are moving ahead with a 5 percent tariff increase.

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