



PORT DEBUTS “HEALTHY HARBOR” INITIATIVE TO BUILD ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESSES; AIR QUALITY PLAN IS FIRST

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LONG BEACH, Calif., – The Port of Long Beach today launched “Healthy Harbor Long Beach,” a comprehensive environmental initiative building on recent successes that have improved air and water quality and expanded wildlife habitats throughout the Port area.

During a ceremony, Port and City officials outlined Healthy Harbor and unveiled the initiative’s logo – a light green pelican and light blue waves under a yellow sun set inside a deep blue field shaped like an “H.” The logo will be used on brochures, posters and other Port materials to help strengthen the identity of environmental programs currently administered by the Port and several new efforts that will be announced over the next year.

Earlier Monday at its regularly scheduled meeting, the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners approved the Air Quality Improvement Program that is the first element of the Healthy Harbor initiative. The Air Quality Improvement Program combines existing and new efforts that surpass state and federal requirements and commit millions of dollars to reduce diesel emissions by promoting the use of alternative fuels and pollution-control devices. The program, which calls for close cooperation with the tenants and the shipping lines, also includes efforts to reduce truck traffic congestion, because idling and slow-moving trucks produce more emissions than trucks moving efficiently.

“In recent years, the Port of Long Beach has made great strides in

enhancing air quality, water quality and wildlife habitats in the region, as symbolized by the Healthy Harbor logo,” said John Hancock, president of the Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners. “Through the Healthy Harbor initiative, we are building on our successes by focusing even more attention and taking an even more aggressive approach toward protecting our natural resources, and re-dedicating ourselves to being a good neighbor.”

Mayor Beverly O'Neill noted that the Port is an economic powerhouse, generating thousands of jobs and millions of dollars in economic activity. "We can continue to improve our quality of life while reaping the economic benefits of Port activity," the Mayor said.

The Air Quality Improvement Program exceeds state and federal requirements because it aims to reduce diesel emissions from tenant- and port-owned vehicles and equipment as well as locomotives – so-called off-road sources that are less regulated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

For example, the program calls for the Port to:

- Conduct at least one pilot project in cooperation with one or more terminal operators to study the feasibility of using liquid natural gas or other alternative fuels in yard tractors, forklifts or other heavy-duty terminal equipment.
- Undertake a major study of the “cold-ironing” of ships, whereby they would use electric rather than internal combustion power while at berth.
- Require tenants to prepare plans to significantly reduce emissions by 2007.
- Actively promote and fund efforts to develop advanced technology for truck scheduling and freeway message systems that will reduce truck congestion and idling.

Many of these efforts are already under way. For example, the Port has already begun evaluating the cold-ironing of ships and has undertaken programs to install pollution-control equipment and convert tenant-owned and port-owned vehicles to alternative fuels. In addition,

the Port has built on-dock rail, overpasses and other infrastructure improvements that reduce truck congestion and idling and thereby limit diesel emissions.

The Port of Long Beach has a history of protecting natural resources through innovative environmental programs utilizing an array of methods in a wide variety of settings. For example, the Port:

- Developed a comprehensive stormwater pollution prevention program that received a California Environmental Protection Agency award.
- Successfully relocated a black-crowned night heron nesting area, including more than 50 trees, from the former Long Beach Naval Station.
- Earned a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Western Environmental Hero Award for safely utilizing contaminated sediments from other Southern California locations as part of a structural fill to create new Port terminal land.
- Went beyond state requirements to reduce dust from petroleum coke storage and shipping facilities by making rigorous infrastructure and housekeeping improvements, in addition to the mandated changes such as covering petroleum coke piles and adding spray systems to conveyer belts.
- Cleaned up a state Superfund site containing chemical and petroleum waste dumps on property acquired by the Port, and preventing contamination in runoff from Port property.

A recent study found that San Pedro Bay is thriving, supporting approximately 45 million fish belonging to 74 species in a healthy ecosystem. The productivity and habitat quality have increased markedly since the last comprehensive study of San Pedro Bay in 1976, according to the results. Separate studies have shown San Pedro Bay supports 100 species of birds, including three endangered species.

“The people at the Port of Long Beach have always been committed to

protecting our environment for future generations,” Hancock said. “Just like others in the community, we use our coastal waters and shorelines for recreation. We’re environmentalists, too.”

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