

PORT HONORED AS ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARD

LONG BEACH, Calif., May 8, 2002 -- The Port of Long Beach has been named by the California Environmental Protection Agency's local water board as the "Most Improved Permittee" for 2002.

The state EPA's Regional Water Quality Control Board in Los Angeles recognized the port for embracing a philosophy of environmental stewardship. The board said this was exemplified by the port's cleanup and reuse of brownfields, including the former Long Beach Naval Complex and former oilfields. The board also cited the port's comprehensive storm water management program.

"It is gratifying that the state has recognized the significant positive effects our storm water program has had on improving water quality," said port Planning Director Robert Kanter, who developed the program. Kanter said that by drawing support from port management, tenants and the Board of Harbor Commissioners, the program continues to be improved, resulting in even better water quality.

The water board lauded the port's Master Storm Water Program as a "unique model," praising the "port's commitment to environmental restoration and acceptance of responsibility for storm water management."

Presenting the agency's 2002 Water Quality Awards on April 18, Regional Board Chair Francine Diamond said, "This year's recipients are distinguished by having moved beyond clean water regulatory requirements to help achieve even greater levels of protection and awareness for the residents of the Los Angeles Watershed Basin."

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