



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
CONTACT: ART WONG, Media Relations Manager
E-Mail: wong@polb.com
Website: www.polb.com
September 27, 1999
(562) 590-4123

PORT FIGHTING PETROLEUM COKE DUST

The Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners on Monday, Sept. 27 approved a lease for a vacated, covered storage shed to Aimcor, the port's largest coke exporter. Aimcor plans to repair and renovate the shed for its use by next June. The covered shed would have a capacity of 85,000 tons and enable Aimcor to abandon an existing uncovered storage site.

The lease is part of a comprehensive program the Port of Long Beach and its tenants have undertaken to comply with recently enacted air quality rules aimed at minimizing petroleum coke dust. The multimillion-dollar program includes eliminating uncovered storage, increasing street sweeping, replacing a ship loader, renovating conveyors and truck washers, and paving and reconstructing a railyard.

"We're committed to minimizing petroleum coke dust coming from the port," said commission President Roy E. Hearrean. "We're confident we will meet or beat the various deadlines under the new air quality rules."

The first deadline under the South Coast Air Quality Management District's Amended Rule 1158 was met last month when the private operators of the port's coke exporting terminal on Pier G initiated a fixed schedule to sweep the roads and paved areas in and around their facilities with vacuum sweeping trucks. Before the rule those areas were swept weekly, but now they are swept every four hours or after every 100 trucks pass over them.

The port is ordering its own vacuum sweeper so it can sweep the streets between the coke exporting terminals and the entrance to the port, off the Long Beach (710) Freeway. Delivery of the \$130,000 sweeper is expected by the end of the year. The port's sweeping program exceeds the Rule 1158 requirements.

Port engineers are working with a consultant to prepare specifications and designs so they can request proposals for a new, more modern ship loader needed to accommodate today's larger vessels

while minimizing the escape of coke dust. It would replace an existing ship loader. The Rule 1158 deadline to install the new ship loader is June 11, 2004, but port officials expect to complete the ship loader project far sooner. The port is also working closely with its tenants to identify and implement other measures required under Rule 1158.

In addition, the port's engineers are redesigning an unpaved railyard at its coke- and coal-handling terminal on Pier G so that it can be kept cleaner. Rebuilding the railyard should be completed by June 11, 2001, in compliance with Rule 1158.

The port will also enclose all conveyors transporting petroleum coke and upgrade truck washers, including adding water misting and side spraying on the washers that are currently without these features.

The new air quality rules also require local oil refineries and trucking companies to implement control measures, including the covering of open-top trucks by the end of the year.

Petroleum coke is a by-product of oil refining. Coke particles resemble coal, and is used as a fuel and as a raw material in metal smelting throughout the world, including South America, Asia, Europe and the United States.

Since the AQMD's original Rule 1158 was enacted in 1983, the port has spent \$50.2 million on its Pier G bulk-loading complex for such improvements as enclosed storage sheds, truck washes and a storm water recycling system.

END