



# News Release

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## **State Awards \$8.36 million Security Grant Part of latest round of awards from California's Proposition 1B**

February 14, 2008

Port of Long Beach officials welcomed an \$8.36 million grant announced Thursday, February 14, 2008, by the state Office of Homeland Security.

The money comes from the statewide ballot measure Proposition 1B, approved by voters in 2006. Of the \$20 billion from that measure, \$1 billion will be devoted to security. Security grants of \$40 million to 11 California seaports were announced Thursday.

Security is a major priority for the Port of Long Beach, which will use the funds for projects that will help to protect the Port and prepare it to operate after a disaster.

"The funding the Ports are receiving today from Proposition 1B will go a long way towards the creation of a disaster management operations center, the integration of our communications systems and the establishment of an improved disaster alert system," said Long Beach Mayor Bob Foster. "This grant will not only help protect one of our nation's most vital economic resources, but also help improve security for the Port's workers and surrounding communities."

"The Port of Long Beach is a vital asset to the state and the nation. It makes sense to fund worthy projects that can enhance security at the Port and beyond," said Long Beach Board of Harbor Commissioners President Mario Cordero. "The Port will use its grants to further improve its cutting-edge security program."

The Port will use the latest grant to fund several projects:

- Security stakeholders systems will be integrated into the Port's new Joint Command and Control Center (\$2 million).

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- A Disaster Recovery Center will aid in the continuity of the Port Security Division's operations and the Port's business operations as well (\$2 million).
- A public-address system will be installed to alert port workers and visitors in an emergency (\$3 million).
- A radio-frequency identification system is being developed to better track truck movements in the port complex (\$1 million).
- Cameras for Harbor Patrol, Police and Fire boats (nearly \$400,000).

Port of Long Beach Security Director Cosmo Perrone coordinated a strategy for a fair distribution of the state grants for ports throughout the state. This grant brings homeland security grants from the state to the Port to \$9.2 million, while the federal government has awarded Long Beach \$50 million.