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PORT OF LOS ANGELES' AIR QUALITY EFFORTS CUT 1,000 TONS OF EMISSIONS



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SAN PEDRO, CA – In just one year after implementation, the efforts of the Port of Los Angeles Clean Air Program (POLACAP) have resulted in a decrease of nearly 1,000 tons of nitrous oxide (NOx) and 10 tons of diesel particulate matter (PM), the Port announced today. These results have set an impressive foundation for the City of Los Angeles to reach Mayor Jim Hahn's goal of no-net increase in Port air pollution emissions.

"The Port of Los Angeles has made a tremendous effort to develop and put into place programs that support my commitment to residents and businesses to improve the air quality around the Port," said Mayor Hahn. "After one year, the program has already made a huge impact in the community. I applaud the Port's dedication to this program and I look forward to continuing to work with the Port in our efforts to increase the level of our air quality."

Last fiscal year, the Board of Harbor Commissioners supported the Mayor and the City's efforts to improve air quality by allocating \$5.3 million to fund POLACAP. The allocated funds came from both Port revenues and agency grants.

"Under Mayor Hahn's leadership and vision, the Port has implemented several innovative, measurable programs to reduce emissions and improve air quality in Wilmington and San Pedro," said Harbor Commissioner Nicholas Tonsich. "POLACAP demonstrates how the Port can form partnerships with the shipping industry to clean up the environment through voluntary and incentive-based initiatives for Port tenants."

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"The Board will continue to support the Mayor in his efforts to provide the highest quality of life for all Los Angeles residents," Tonsich added.

The Vessel Speed Reduction Program, which was implemented two years ago, is among the Port's most innovative success stories. This voluntary program calls upon ships entering the Port slow down to a speed of 12 knots. The reduction of 3-10 knots per ship eliminates an entire ton of smog-forming emissions each day. In addition to slowing down, vessels have also incorporated the use of low sulfur fuel and engine retrofits to ease emissions.

Another of the Port's success stories is its Emulsified Fuel Program, which has removed 250 tons of NOx from the air each year since the program began in 2001. The program targets the fuel source of long-term terminal equipment where levels remain constant. When combined with the Diesel Oxidation Catalyst (DOC) program, the two methods cut particulate matter, tiny molecules of soot that are harmful to breathe, by 50 percent.

The installation of a DOC on one piece of terminal equipment is the equivalent to the removal of more than 100 cars from the road annually. To date, four of the Port's six container terminals are active in this dual initiative.

The Harbor Tugboat Retrofit project has also been instrumental in improvement of air quality around the Port. As part of this program, tugboat engines throughout the Port have been replaced with ultra-low emission diesel engines, which have resulted in an elimination of 100 tons of NOx annually.

The Port of Los Angeles' aggressive air quality programs have expanded and grown since 1990 as result of its daily commitment to improving the air quality in and around the Port. Innovative programs like the Alameda Corridor and Main Channel Deepening projects support the policy of replacing smaller, older vessels with newer, cleaner-burning modes of transportation. The Port's dedication to implementing programs that result in less traffic, lower emissions and the modernization of its existing facilities have enabled the Port to continue to be a world leader in environmental excellence and shipping.

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