

September 24, 2003

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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BOARD OF HARBOR COMMISSIONERS APPROVES FUNDS TO CLEAN HAZARDOUS SAN PEDRO BOAT WORKS SITE



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After 5:00 p.m.:

310/732-3500

(San Pedro, CA) – The Board of Harbor Commissioners today authorized the expenditure of up to \$275,000 for an environmental clean-up operation on Berths 43-44 and 57 left in serious condition by ex-tenant San Pedro Boat Works. These funds are in addition to \$149,500 expended by the Port to begin the clean-up operation in mid-September 2003. San Pedro Boat Works abandoned the polluted site in November 2002.

This action is in response to the Los Angeles County Fire Department direction to San Pedro Boat Works to clean up the site by August 28, 2003. When San Pedro Boat Works did not comply, the County Fire Department then directed the Port, as landowner, to clean the area by October 1, 2003.

“We worked very hard to get San Pedro Boat Works to clean up their operations and our property,” said Larry Keller, Port executive director. “Port environmental management staff closely monitor the effects of our tenant’s operations on the environment. This is, unfortunately, a case where the tenant continued making insufficient steps towards the programs set up by the Port and in the end did not live up to their commitments. The Port is willing to spend whatever it takes in time and funds to correct the damage caused by San Pedro Boat Works.”

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Environmental Hazard Clean Up

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With a history of being cited for non-compliance with environmental permitting and regulatory requirements dating from 1994, and continued direction by the Port to clean the area, San Pedro Boat Works abandoned Berths 43-44 and 57 in November 2002 without giving notice to the Port of Los Angeles. San Pedro Boat Works subsequently filed for bankruptcy in December 2002.

Immediately following the abandonment of the berths, the Port attempted to gain access to the property to assess environmental damages and to begin a complete cleaning of the area. Permission was granted in June 2003, however clean up was delayed while the sites were being investigated by the U.S. Attorney and Federal Bureau of Investigation.

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