

# NEWS

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **LOS ANGELES HARBOR COMMISSION ADOPTS \$600.1 MILLION FISCAL YEAR 2004/2005 BUDGET**



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**SAN PEDRO, CA** – The Los Angeles Board of Harbor Commissioners today adopted, a \$600.1 million fiscal year 2004/2005 budget which will support enhanced security measures, environmental programs, operational efficiencies, community outreach, maritime education, and customer-oriented requirements for the Port of Los Angeles.

“The Port of Los Angeles budget remains consistent with the goals set a year ago,” said Mayor Jim Hahn. “I am working to make Los Angeles America’s safest big city. This budget focuses on safe and secure operations, as well as a healthy environment for the Port’s neighboring communities.”

Harbor Commission President Nicholas Tonsich remarked, “The budget adopted today confirms that Port operations are a balance of customer and community oriented projects that will benefit the City, five-county region and the nation.”

The FY 2004/2005 budget contains an Operating Budget of \$235.0 million, a Capital Budget of \$231.3 million and \$43.5 million in future commitments. Operating Revenues are estimated at \$400.6 million, an increase of 25.4% over last year’s budget, primarily due to anticipated higher cargo throughput anticipated next year. This Port of Los Angeles Community Advisory Committee (PCAC) will be briefed on the preliminary budget.

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Larry Keller, Executive Director, stated, "The Port of Los Angeles continues to strive to be the best Port it can possibly be. In fiscal year 2003/2004, the Port broke ground for the first phase of the Bridge to Breakwater Development Project, a multi-faceted project, which will change the waterfront to benefit everyone. The Main Channel Deepening Project progressed to get us closer to accommodating the larger container vessels of the future. Security improvements included cargo inspection technology, installation of detection systems, perimeter security, fencing and lighting. As we reflect on our past achievements, we can only eagerly await the accomplishments of the year ahead."

**Security Measures:** Overall safety and security remains a focal point in the newly stated budget, supporting heightened security measures including homeland security programs, increased staffing resources and equipment for the Port Police. This year the department will implement new security-related programs such as Waterside Security Surveillance Systems, Passenger Complex Vehicle Screening, Passenger Complex Perimeter/Security Control, Waterborne Perimeter Security Barriers and Radiation Portal Monitor Program while continuing work on the Joint Container Inspection Facility and Operation Safe Commerce programs initiated in FY 2003/2004.

**Environmental Stewardship:** The Port of Los Angeles continues to remain committed to environmental programs such as the Environmental Management System (EMS), Goods Movement Efficiency Team (extended gates), Port Master Traffic Planning, Clean Air Program, "Green Terminal" Program, Clean Marina Program, Soil and Groundwater Protection Program, and Habitat Protection Plan. With new innovative programs such as Alternative Maritime Power (AMP) to reduce air emissions, the Port continues to take the lead in environmental stewardship.

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### **3-3-3**

**Operational Efficiencies:** The Port is enhancing its facilities to meet the demand for modern and efficient operations to serve the needs of its customers, and accommodate the projected volume of cargo that will be generated over the next few years. Progress on major revenue projects continue including the Pier 400 – Phase II, the Main Channel Deepening project and terminal redevelopment at various sites throughout the Port.

**Community Outreach:** The Port of Los Angeles continues involvement and good neighbor relations with the harbor communities through its participation with local neighborhood councils, chambers of commerce, maritime associations, industry-related organizations and the Port Community Advisory Committee. A portion of the Capital Improvements Budget (\$35.8 million) includes the Bridge to Breakwater Waterfront Development Project, which encompasses the construction of a promenade, Gateway Plaza, greenbelt, streetscape, pedestrian enhancements, street intersection improvements on Harbor Boulevard, and streetscape enhancements on First Street. This project is a direct response to the communities desires to have closer access to the waterfront.

**Maritime Education and Local Facilities:** The Port budget includes support for maritime education, and ongoing operational support for local facilities and activities such as the Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, Cabrillo Beach Lifeguard, Los Angeles Maritime Museum, and Point Fermin Lighthouse. Sponsorship and rent-free agreements with 15 various local non-profit organizations that occupy Port-owned facilities such as the Port of Los Angeles Boys and Girls Club and YWCA Worldtots, a total commitment valued at \$2 million.

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## **Port of Los Angeles FY 2004/2005 Budget**

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The Port of Los Angeles expects to support to the proposed capital spending during fiscal year 2004/2005 through the available operating resources and utilize short-term revenue certificates, such as the \$75 million in commercial paper.

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