

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## PORT OF LOS ANGELES BECOMES FIRST PORT WORLDWIDE TO OFFER A TARIFF REDUCTION FOR ZERO-EMISSION VEHICLE SHIPMENTS

**SAN PEDRO, Calif.** — **Sept. 27, 2010** — The Los Angeles Harbor Commission has approved a plan that makes the Port of Los Angeles the world's first port to offer a reduced tariff for zero-emission vehicles imported and exported through the Port. The 15 percent tariff reduction, available to all auto makers, was targeted at Chinese manufacturer BYD Auto Company Limited (BYD) as part of the City's proposal to bring BYD's North American headquarters to Los Angeles and use the Port of Los Angeles as its primary US shipping gateway.

"The action taken by the Harbor Commission is an example of the commitment needed to attract global alternative energy companies to Los Angeles," said Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa. "The Port of Los Angeles has taken a leading role in our city's efforts to grow green and this is another step in that direction."

Austin Beutner, First Deputy Mayor, added, "As Los Angeles takes its place as the country's electric vehicle capital, we are building an infrastructure that will support every aspect of this burgeoning market. We continue to execute smart business strategies, such as the Harbor tariff reduction, for all auto manufacturers to move the Port's and the City's sustainability objectives forward."

Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D., said, "The Port is proud to play a key role in attracting new and clean technology enterprises to the City. We will continue to find creative ways to expand our business and job creation opportunities while remaining committed to our strict environmental standards."

The "Zero Emission Vehicle Tariff Measure" is the first of its kind in the maritime industry and is available to any automobile manufacturer who imports through the Port of Los Angeles. The 15 percent tariff reduction takes effect upon approval by the Los Angeles City Council.

In May, BYD, a leader in electric and hybrid vehicles and other renewable energy products, announced BYD will locate is North American headquarters in Log Angeles. The company's Los Angeles headquarters will be responsible for sales, marketing and research and development for its automobiles and energy products, which include solar panels, LED lighting systems and other renewable products. BYD is selling the world's first mass-produced plug-in hybrid vehicle and introduced the first electric car independent of specialized charging stations earlier this year in Shenzen, China.

The Port of Los Angeles is America's premier port and has a strong commitment to developing innovative strategic and sustainable operations that benefit the economy as well as the quality of life for the region and the nation it serves. As the leading seaport in North America in terms of shipping container volume and cargo value, the Port generates 919,000 regional jobs and \$39.1 billion in annual wages and tax revenues. A proprietary department of the City of Los Angeles, the Port is self-supporting and does not receive taxpayer dollars.

The Port of Los Angeles – A cleaner port. A brighter future.