



Anthony J. Taormina has been named to succeed Bill Buenger as executive director of the Oxnard Harbor District, the governing body of the Port of Hueneme. The Oxnard Harbor District Board of Commissioners announced the appointment in a public meeting on May 8. Mr. Taormina's appointment took effect in mid-June.

A thirty-year veteran of the maritime and transportation industry, Mr. Taormina previously served as the Oxnard Harbor District's executive director from 1985 to 1995 and before that as deputy port director at the Port of San Francisco. Most recently, he was Director, Auto Business for the Port of Tacoma. He has been executive director for both the Mississippi State Port Authority at Gulfport (1995-1999) and the Port of Palm Beach (1999-2002).

In addition to his public port authority service, Mr. Taormina served as Primary Consultant to the California Senate Select Committee on Maritime Industry, Director of Seaport Development for OmniTRAX, Inc., a private short-line railroad and intermodal operator, and a member of various transportation consulting entities including sole proprietor of Port Directions LLC, a marine transportation consulting business.

Taormina said his first priority will be meeting with the leaders of the nearby cities, the county and Naval Base Ventura County to get their take of the various issues facing the port and their communities.

According to Mr. Taormina, "Within any port community there's always a sensitive balance between port development and growth, and community impacts. So it is important to be a good neighbor in Ventura County"

The Port of Hueneme brings in more than 1.3 million metric tons of cargo, including almost 300,000 imported vehicles, annually. Much of this tonnage is brought in by port customers who came during Mr. Taormina's first stint when he and Bill Buenger teamed together to run the Port's operations or by companies who were in the midst of negotiations with the District when Mr. Taormina departed. In the interim, volumes have increased by more than 50 percent since 1995.

A native of San Francisco and a graduate of California State University at San Francisco, Mr. Taormina served as an officer in the U.S. Army from 1963 to 1966.

Now, the major issue is over whether the Port of Hueneme will find adequate space to accommodate its customers burgeoning businesses.

