

## **Port's Executive Director visits with Saviers Road Design Team**

Oxnard Harbor District Executive Director Anthony J. Taormina met recently with the Saviers Road Design Team and reassured the group the Port of Hueneme has no major expansion plans.

“Frankly, business is down because of the worldwide recession,” said Taormina. “We have no plans for expansion. At the current time, we have no reason for expansion.”

The Saviers Road group is primarily concerned with wetlands in the Ormond Beach area and other sections of Oxnard and Port Hueneme. It is fair to say they invited Taormina to their meeting with a certain amount of skepticism.

Members of the group said they had seen city of Oxnard development maps that concerned them.

But Taormina told the group that the port focuses on three major goals: to remind everyone of its status as a significant economic engine in the county; to be a good neighbor and community partner; and to be a responsible steward of the environment. He referred to this as a tripod of sustainability namely the Financial, Environmental and Social elements necessary for all port related projects.

Taormina told the group about the Confined Aquatic Disposal project at the port. In this project, the Port has partnered with the Navy and the Army Corps of Engineers to scoop contaminants on the harbor floor and bury them in a safe disposal facility. The project provided thousands of tons of sand replenishment for Hueneme Beach, gathered and contained contaminated materials in an environmentally safe cell and restored the Harbor's operational depth to a uniform 35 feet.

The \$4.6 million promenade along Hueneme Beach, enjoyed by so many casual walkers, cyclists and others, was paid for in partnership between the Harbor District (82%) and the City of Port Hueneme (18%). The project repaired approximately 3,050 feet of shoreline protection by reconstructing the seaward face of the revetment with large 5-7 ton armor stone. Construction included a 24 foot wide road behind the revetment for public access near the historic Hueneme lighthouse along with two new public lookout points.

Taormina told the group of the many steps the harbor is taking to comply with the California Air Regulation Board requirements including future plans to reduce idling by diesel-fueled truck engines at the harbor as well as plans to provide shore-side power to ships visiting the port.