

Port Leaders Stay Active throughout Maritime Community

With just 27 District employees and five elected Harbor Commissioners the Oxnard Harbor District Port of Hueneme is proud that three of its team members are presidents of their particular professional organizations in 2009.

Anthony J. Taormina, Executive Director of the district, is President of the California Association of Port Authorities (CAPA) an industry group dedicated to maintaining California's leading role in the Maritime industry. CAPA is comprised of the state's eleven publicly-owned, commercial ports including Humboldt Bay Harbor District, the coastal Ports of Hueneme, Long Beach, Los Angeles and San Diego, the San Francisco Bay ports of Oakland, Redwood City, Richmond and San Francisco and California's river ports of Stockton and Sacramento. Together California's ports process more than 300 million metric tons of goods annually, with an estimated value of more than \$500 billion.

Through CAPA, California's public ports are committed to maintaining environmentally sound maritime practices while developing more environmentally-friendly port operations. This is Taormina's second time working as Executive Director of the port and is one of the few Port Executive Directors to have served on all three of America's coastlines.

Judith E. Cofer, Deputy Executive Director of administration, is president of the Ventura County Special Districts Association (VCSDA) for 2009. VCSDA promotes the efficient, economical and responsive manner in which public services are provided to Ventura County's citizens by Independent Special Districts. Many people ask - What are Independent Special Districts? And how do they serve the community? People who really know how special districts work respond by describing the distinct advantages to the special district form of government. For one, special districts provide focused services avoiding the many layers of bureaucracy encountered with general multi-purpose forms of government, allowing special districts quicker response times to customer needs. Special districts are a direct expression of Americans' independent, can-do spirit. Cofer was elected president of the VCSDA in February of 2009 and will serve a two-year term. Special Districts include the Oxnard Harbor District, Ventura Port District, various Parks and Recreation districts, Healthcare districts, Water districts and others, belonging to the association. Cofer's primary responsibilities at the Port include the financial well-being of the District. She began working at the district in 1988.

Chris Birkelo, Director of Facilities Development, is Chairman of the Board of Directors of the California Marine Affairs and Navigation Conference (CMANC). CMANC is a consortium of California harbors, ports and marine interest groups with the mission to optimize California's maritime benefits by providing advocacy for the maintenance and improvement of California harbors, ports and navigation projects. CMANC works with the California legislature and

congressional delegation to make sure that California's maritime interests are supported by the federal and state governments to the greatest extent possible. CMANC, with Birkelo as its chair, is an advocate for a wide range of marine and coastal interests. Birkelo, who has been with the District since 1992, served on the CMANC board since 2002 and is chairman for this year.

"This is an impressive record," said Board of Harbor Commissioners President Jesse J. Ramirez. "It shows that we have outstanding staff members who are recognized leaders in their field."

Additional information can be found by visiting the following websites:

www.californiaports.org

www.VCSDA.org

www.cmanc.com