

HUENEME DOCK TALK

Mission Produce

**CUSTOMER
SPOTLIGHT**

*Frank Briseño
Mission Produce, Inc.*

Partners in Agriculture + Trade



**The Port
OF HUENEME**
Oxnard Harbor District

2019 SPRING NEWSLETTER

Your Port of Hueneme Commissioners



Jess Herrera
President



Jess Ramirez
Vice President



Jason T. Hodge
Secretary



Mary Anne Rooney
Commissioner



Dr. Manuel Lopez
Commissioner



Port Overview

The Port of Hueneme is one of the most productive and efficient commercial trade gateways for niche cargo on the West Coast. The Port is governed by five locally elected Port Commissioners. The Port moves \$9 billion in goods each year and consistently ranks among the top ten U.S. ports for automobiles and fresh produce, servicing 13 states and Canada. Port operations support the community by bringing \$1.5 billion in economic activity and creating 13,633 trade-related jobs. Trade through the Port of Hueneme generates more than \$93 million in direct and related state and local taxes, which fund vital community services. In 2017, the Port of Hueneme became the first port in California to become Green Marine certified, a third-party auditor of environmental stewardship. The Port was voted Greenest US Port at the 2017 US Green Shipping Summit.



Message from the Board President

Greetings from the Oxnard Harbor District,

Our strength as a port community has always been our people. Together, we face challenges and embrace opportunities as one. This spirit is what spurred our beginning in 1937, when our forefather, Richard Bard led the people of Ventura County to come together and build our Port without a cent of government funding. The Port would serve as a beacon of opportunity for our region and a gateway to economic vitality for our local farms and businesses. We truly were the “Port that Farmers Built”. At the time, we exported grain, the county’s largest crop, to the San Francisco Bay in exchange for timber which was used to construct the homes, buildings, and infrastructure of our communities.

As the Port matured, new challenges arose. And with each challenge, came the opportunity for our community to rally together, ensuring that we would support our local growers, manufacturers, entrepreneurs, and workforce. Each time, our port community rose to meet those challenges.

Today, we find ourselves facing another challenge, the need for more space. As our local workforce continues to grow, we have an opportunity to grow with them and provide the same opportunities myself and so many others benefitted from. Looking back over the past 50 years working on

the waterfront, I see how our jobs as longshoremen had a far-reaching impact beyond just ourselves. Not only were we working together on the docks, we were out in the community making a difference for our neighborhoods and our city. We were able to provide for our growing families, support our local charities and churches, and make a way for our children to have a world of opportunity at their fingertips. Each pallet of bananas and car coming out of those vessels were much more than just cargo. They represented our future, our children’s future, and the future of our community. This was true 50 years ago, and even more true today. Our Port has grown to support over 13,600 jobs. Those are 13,600 families who have a stable paycheck and health insurance, and whose children now have the opportunity to succeed.



This edition of *Dock Talk* highlights many of the ways our Port community is meeting the challenges of today, including how to handle and process cargo in environmentally sustainable ways and how to accommodate the growth of our customers and cargo volumes. As we move through 2019, we must remember that our Port’s greatest strength will continue to be our people and our ability to tackle the challenges that lie ahead together. As the African proverb states, “If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together.” I look forward to serving as Harbor Commissioner President this year, and going this path together.

Regards,

Jess Herrera

Oxnard Harbor District President



President Herrera sworn in by his wife, Dr. Cynthia Herrera

Welcome from Port Director Kristin Decas



Greetings from the Port!

Greetings from our Port family and welcome to the Spring 2019 edition of *Dock Talk*, where we strive to keep you up to date with all the happenings at the Port through this informative and engaging publication. Be sure to find us on social media for real time updates or visit us at portofh.org.

This edition of *Dock Talk* highlights our customer, Mission Produce Inc., and their local operation here in Oxnard. Mission employs over 200 people in one of the most state-of-the-art and sustainable facilities our county has ever seen. In partnership we landed a \$3 million state grant to pilot the world's first ever ship-to-shore zero-emission avocado, utilizing zero-emission cargo handling equipment and a hydrogen fuel cell truck. Turn to page 7 to learn more about this amazing local company.

Talking cargo, we are pleased to report that record volumes crossed the docks with 8% growth over last year. The signs for another stellar year look optimistic with first and second quarter FY2019 numbers outpacing FY2018. Our export market remains on a steady upward trajectory with commodities including apples, blueberries, pears, grapes, onions, automobiles, auto parts, baby products, construction and building materials, household goods, fabrics/textiles, foodstuffs, footwear, frozen french fries, frozen foodstuffs, general merchandise, and frozen proteins/meats.

As we grow, we can do more for our community and our environment.

We create more jobs for our citizens and veterans. Efforts underway include modernization of our wharves and staging areas to accommodate increases in cargo. These projects are being built through our first ever Project Labor Agreement (PLA). Signed at the end of 2018, this PLA sets criteria for local labor as well as seeks veteran hires through a "Helmets to Hardhats" program. See page 15 for more.

We find matches to grants and work with partners to protect our environment and create more jobs. Community members, project stakeholders, and Congresswoman Julia Browley joined us on February 21st to officially break ground on our Port Deepening Project (see page 12), a project

that has been on the books since the 1990s. Federal grants and US Army Corps funding have moved this project from a blueprint to a reality. In total, the project promises to generate 500+ new local jobs as well as provide clean sand for onshore and near-shore beach replenishment for Port Hueneme. The insurmountable community and elected leadership support played a most significant role in bringing this critical funding to the Port. We thank our community leaders!

We help clean our air and our beaches. We are developing a clean air plan and are partnering on an air quality monitoring initiative with the Ventura County Air Pollution Control District. With new analytical equipment in queue, we forecast to have good data for you over the next year. Our shoreside power system has been up and running since 2014, allowing our refrigerated cargo ships to plug in. We also purchased a new fleet of hybrid vehicles. With the Coastal Commission, we are sponsoring the annual beach clean-up day this fall for Hueneme Beach. We continue to hold the title of Greenest US Port per the 2017 International Green Shipping Summit.

We invest in community programs. As you surf the internet and learn about local events, programs, and initiatives, you'll see our logo. We make it a priority to invest in the fabric of our community and invest in local programs that provide for our youth, seniors, military and veterans. We support over 80 locally-based community programs. We offer paid internships for local high school students that participate in our Global Trade and Logistics Class and host over 120 field trips for our local schools each year.

We create access to the best innovators and entrepreneurs of Ventura County. Our Maritime Advance System Technology (MAST) program is taking an exciting new course working with Matter Labs, the Economic Development Collaborative and the Navy. We are setting up shop to create the most innovative solutions for our community and environment by connecting local entrepreneurs with new technologies requisite to building these solutions. Over 150 STEM students will be joining us for our 6th Annual Technology Expo on April 10th where we will officially launch our next iteration of MAST.

It is a privilege to serve you, and continue to work alongside you for the betterment of our community.

Sincerely,

Kristin Decas
CEO & Port Director

Project Highlights

What's in the works at the Port?

Port Deepening – TIGER/US Army

In February, the Port kicked off their newest project – deepening the harbor an additional five feet. The project is largely funded by a \$12.3 million TIGER Grant (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) from the U.S. Department of Transportation. The project will create over 563 new jobs, \$28 million in business revenue, \$5.8 million in local purchases, and \$4.6 million in state and local taxes. See page 12 for more about this project.

Zero-Emission and Near Zero-Emission Freight Facilities (ZANZEFF) Project

In partnership with California Air Resources Board (CARB), Port of Los Angeles and our customer Mission Produce Inc., we are excited to participate in a project that will enhance zero-emission technology used at the Port.

Another exciting innovation from this partnership is the testing of a hydrogen fuel cell drayage truck technology from Toyota, providing the ability to move cargo in the greenest way possible.

Port Modernization

Demolition of obsolete buildings will allow for greater optimization of terminal space, cargo operations, and vessel berthing.

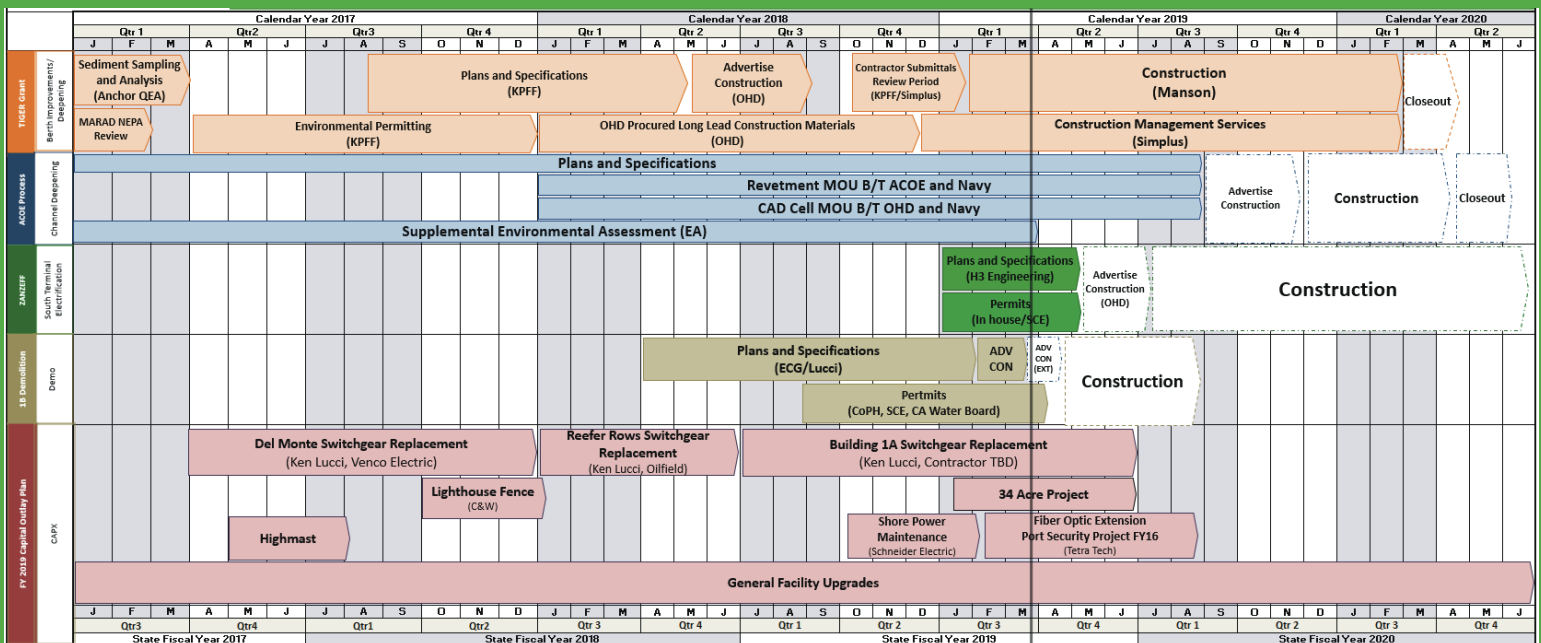
Port Lighting Project

To reduce its environmental footprint by improving energy usage through transitioning to LED lighting, the Port is in the process of upgrading and retrofitting over 130 light fixtures across the entire Port complex.

PHRESH — PORT OF HUENEME REDUCING EMISSIONS, SUPPORTING HEALTH

A partnership between the Port and local air quality regulatory agency VCAPCD. PHRESH will be the first time in the state that a port and its air quality regulator have teamed up to write a clean air plan together. PHRESH will assess and address the Port's emissions, air quality requirements and goals for the Port, future growth scenarios, emission control strategies, community involvement, strategy funding, implementation and monitoring. ♦

Capital Improvement Program — FY2017 & FY2018





Spring 2019
Customer
Spotlight



Frank Briseño

Mission Produce, Inc.

Our customers make us thrive, and there is a perfect example of this at the thriving **Mission Produce Inc.**, which is an integral part of the local community and loyal Port partner. And Mission's Senior Plant Operations & Global QA Manager **Frank Briseño** is an important connection between Mission, the Port — and the community.

Working at Mission Produce Inc. 5½ years, Frank is “locally grown” himself — born in Port Hueneme and having lived in Ventura County all his life, Frank earned his Bachelor of Science (BS) in Business Administration and Management at California State University Channel Islands.

Agriculture is in his personal history. “I’m very proud to say that I come from immigrant parents who worked in agriculture as field workers harvesting and in the packing houses packing fruit,” he says. “I learned what hard work is firsthand as they instilled that trait in me every day. Now being on the management side in the same industry is something that brings it all full circle for us and is one of the reasons they made the sacrifices they made, to give me and my siblings a better life.”

In his position, Frank is continually on the move — not that he minds it. “The most interesting part of my job is the fact that I get to visit so many operations globally,” he says. “It has provided me insight into how each country’s local supply chain differs in certain aspects as well as the similarities they share.”

Mission Produce Inc. is the world leader in the marketing and distribution of fresh Hass avocados, and operates in, has partnerships with, or distributes in Canada, Mexico, numerous countries in Europe, Peru, Chile, Colombia, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Morocco, Korea, Singapore, Japan, China, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Malaysia, India, and the Middle East — just to name a few!

In his travels, Frank observes the details. “Each operation and pack house have more similarities than differences but there are always little details and intricacies that differentiate them which



MISSION Fun Facts

A fun fact is that FUN is one of Mission's 5 core values, known as **FIRST!**

Fun

Innovative

Reliable

Successful

Trustworthy

www.worldsfinestavocados.com

Customer Spotlight: Mission Produce Inc.



An avocado grove in California.

Photos courtesy of Mission Produce Inc.



make them unique,” he says. “I try to learn from each in order to better my understanding, gain knowledge and try to standardize our network as much as possible.”

It’s here in Oxnard that Mission Produce Inc. has its largest distribution center (DC) and its only US-based packing house, employing close to 200 employees during peak times. There are six additional DCs in the US, two in Canada, and one each in the Netherlands and China. Not only that, “we also have 2 packing houses in Michoacán, Mexico and the largest packing house globally in Chao, Peru.”

That’s a lot of traveling for a Mission Hass avocado. “A typical California avocado will start its life in one of the main growing regions which includes Ventura County,” says Frank. Once an avocado is purchased by Mission, it is processed at their facility in Oxnard. “California avos [then can] go all across the globe, from Korea to Japan to the Middle East. They could also stay in the States in California or get transported into the Midwest. If you’re eating avocados in southern California they could be a Mission avocado since we service many food service and retail entities locally. They might end up on your table!”

Mission Produce Inc. started importing into the Port of Hueneme in 2016 and “have steadily grown our program year after year,” Frank says.

The benefits of Mission Produce having a supply chain near the Port “allows receiving product the day the vessel arrives, or the day after at the latest,” Frank says. “That gives us the ability to replenish our Inventory and get fruit moving through the network quicker.”

Accessibility to the Port (and its staff) is something Frank relies on. “The part that makes it easy to work with the Port is that if I have any issues I could pick up the phone and get assistance from the highest level of management,” he says. “The customer service is truly one of the main assets the Port provides.”

Mission Produce Inc. continues to increase convenience to their customers. “The Port was instrumental and very supportive of Mission getting approval to perform Customs and Border Protection (CBP) inspections at our facility,” he says. “Not only for avocados but for other commodities we provide third-party logistics (3PL) services to.”

Mission is also looking at the latest in innovation. “Our R&D team has been currently working on with Hazel

Technologies,” he says. “We are set to roll out a new technology that will help extend shelf life and help minimize food waste using packets of 1MCP [a synthetic plant growth regulator].”

The company also works tirelessly to improve and strengthen the community in which they serve and “always tries to give back and stay connected with the community. We have an annual golf tournament in which vendors and partners of Mission donate which goes to charity,” says Frank. “We sponsor several events locally such as the Casa Pacifica Wine & Food festival as well as the Ventura County Fair.”

*Customer service is truly
one of the main assets
the Port provides.*

— Frank Briseño
Mission Produce Inc.

Community participation is something Frank enjoys. “A fun part of my job is when local schools from around the county want to tour our CDS facility,” he says. “Recently we had students from the Journalism Club at R.J. Frank Academy of Marine Science and Engineering (serving grades 6-8) in Oxnard join us and see firsthand part of the field-to-fork process for an avocado to get to your table.”

What’s next for Mission Produce Inc. and the Port of Hueneme? “We have a very close relationship with the Port,” says Frank. “Efforts on both sides have led to additional services coming into the Port which

could only help benefit both parties. I see increased volume coming into our Oxnard packhouse through the Port – be it avocados or another commodity for our 3PL business.” ♦

Avocados being processed at Mission Produce Inc.'s packhouse in Oxnard. Once avocados arrive here, they are placed under a continuous cold chain from receiving until shipping. They are washed, packed, bagged (if needed) and stored.

Caption Here



Port of Hueneme Delivers Humanitarian Aid to Guatemala, Announces Sister Port Relationship



In January, the Port of Hueneme made history with the monumental signing of a major sister port agreement with Puerto Quetzal, the leading Guatemalan seaport, marking the first time a U.S. West Coast port executed such an agreement. The historic ceremony concludes the Port of Hueneme's first ever trade mission to Guatemala, a mission celebrating mutual interests around trade and community.

The Port delegation kicked off its visit fulfilling its humanitarian initiative to bring supplies to underprivileged school age children. The Port first learned of the need in Guatemala from El Lustrador Foundation President René Corado, who grew up in the Zona Tres community of Guatemala City, and now resides in Ventura County. Like the experience of Mr. Corado, the children in Zona Tres spend their mornings working in the local trash dump to collect what they can to trade for food and necessities. Today, these children have the opportunity to attend school and receive the chance of a brighter future.



The Port of Hueneme's Jess Ramirez and Kristin Decas welcome the Chiquita container to the school

“Five months ago, we launched our ‘Fill the Container Challenge’ at the Port’s Annual Banana Festival,” said Oxnard Harbor District Board Vice President Jess Ramirez. “Our hope was to bring real help to the children who live in the poorest of conditions and show them that they have a future, and that there are people across the world cheering for them to succeed and find a better life for themselves and their families.”

Since September, the Port rallied with the local community to fill a 40-foot Chiquita shipping container with clothing, school supplies, shoes, and toys. Oxnard local schools helped the cause sorting and packing the container. The ILWU Local

46 also joined forces with the Port as an important partner, helping organize donations and provide the labor to load the container onto Chiquita's vessel. The teachers and children of the Manuel Marcos Martinez School #46 located in the Zona Tres neighborhood of Guatemala City, received this container with great joy and appreciation. This school is one of the most underserved communities in the entire country.

Throughout the week, the Port team invested much time in discussing opportunities for increased trade and partnerships with existing Port customers including Chiquita, Del Monte, One Banana Company, and SeaLand – a Maersk Company; who all have operations in Guatemala.

“It was great to visit our partners in Guatemala and to be able to better understand their operations and discuss opportunities to grow together. As we export a variety of U.S. West Coast grown fruit to Puerto Quetzal, Guatemala's strong agricultural and manufacturing sectors are also very well positioned to play a pivotal role in the continued expansion of trade with Port of Hueneme's customers for many years to come.” said Dona Toteva Lacayo, the Port's Chief Commercial and Public Affairs Officer.

In addition, the Port met with exporters and shipper associations to promote Hueneme as the Port of choice for new business supporting Ventura County's agricultural and general cargo exports along with Guatemala mango, coffee, and agricultural imports. Government officials including representatives from the U.S. Embassy, USDA, and Guatemalan Department of Education also welcomed the delegation and engaged in strategic business meetings.

The trade mission concluded with the signing ceremony of the sister port agreement between the Port of Hueneme and the Port of Quetzal. The leadership of both ports officially signed the Joint Resolution committing them to work together on strengthening their trade relationship and sharing best practices in the areas of environment,



Guatemala Trade Mission delegates from the Port of Hueneme at Puerto Quetzal: Kristin Decas; Jess Ramirez; John Merrill, ILWU Local #46; Gustav Hein, Port of Hueneme consultant; Dona Lacayo, Port of Hueneme; joining Maritza Ruiz of Empresa Portuaria Quetzal and colleagues

innovation, security, and efficiency in port operations. Guatemala serves as the Port of Hueneme's top trading partner by volume with over 345,886 U.S. cargo tons annually. Bananas and fresh fruit imports coupled with the exports of locally grown fruit and other U.S. meat, potato and cheese products.

During the ceremony, the Board and Administrators of Empresa Portuario Quetzal expressed that they are pleased to sign the Joint Resolution, and that they look forward to building a strong relationship with the Port of Hueneme.

CEO & Port Director Kristin Decas stated, "Guatemala is one of our top trading partners, with millions of bananas being imported from the country's farms to our Port each year. Establishing a sister port relationship with the Port of Quetzal is the next step in opening doors of trade, sharing best practices in logistics and environmental sustainability, and building upon our relationship for the betterment of our port communities." The Port of Quetzal is the third international port to establish a sister port relationship with Hueneme. The Port of Bolivar, Ecuador and the Port of Ensenada, Mexico formalized their friendships with Hueneme in 2015 and 2014.

Port of Hueneme Trade Delegation

- Jess Ramirez, Vice President of the Oxnard Harbor District
- Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director, Port of Hueneme
- Dona Toteva Lacayo, Chief Commercial & Public Affairs Officer, Port of Hueneme
- John Merrill, Dispatcher of ILWU Local #46
- Gustav Hein, Port of Hueneme consultant

Humanitarian Effort Partners

- Gregg Koenigsberger, Rotary Club Guatemala City
- ILWU Local #46
- Oxnard Unified High School District students
- Local Ventura County community for donations
- Chiquita
- Port of Hueneme



Kristin Decas; Jess Ramirez; José Goubaud Castillo, Presidente de Junta Directiva EPQ Puerto Quetzal; and Roberto Arriaga, Gerente General de Empresa Portuaria Quetzal pose while signing the sister port Joint Resolution

Vice President Jess Ramirez Retires from ILWU

Jess Ramirez, Vice President of the Oxnard Board of Harbor Commissioners, retired in December 2018 after over 51 years of service.

Born in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, Jess immigrated to the United States with his family, and graduated from Oxnard High School where he was a student activist and leader on many student academic and social projects. He also served with distinction in the US Army in both Europe and in Vietnam, working as longshoreman.



Secretary Jason Hodge; Vice President Jess Ramirez; Commissioner Mary Anne Rooney; President Jess Herrera

Following his military service, Jess attended Moorpark College on a Ford Foundation scholarship, later transferring to UC San Diego where he received his Bachelor's degree in Sociology.

Through the 1970s and 80s Jess worked at the Port of Hueneme as a casual longshoreman and after 18 years gained membership in the International Longshoreman's and Warehouse Union Local #46 (ILWU), where he remained until retirement.

His passion and commitment for helping the disadvantaged and the underserved is demonstrated through his work with the Tarahumara Indians of Chihuahua Mexico and various youth groups throughout Oxnard, always emphasizing the importance of education. He is most proud of his four daughters, all of whom have completed degrees from some of the nation's most prestigious universities.

Jess has been recognized for his community service by many groups including El Concilio Family Services in Oxnard, CA, the Oxnard Police Chief's community organization and the California Parent Teachers Association (PTA), to name but a few.

With his knowledge of harbor and maritime issues and a commitment to public service and the environment, Jess was elected to the Board of Harbor Commissioners of the Oxnard Harbor District where he continues to serve his six terms during the Port's greatest period of expansion.

Port Celebrates California Ports Day with Deepening Project Groundbreaking

Championing Social Justice and Environmental Leadership

The Port of Hueneme capped off a week of focus on California's ports in February with a groundbreaking for their newest project, deepening the harbor an additional five feet. The project is largely funded by a \$12.3 million TIGER Grant (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) from the U.S. Department of Transportation. Deepening the harbor will create over 563 new jobs, \$28 million in business revenue, \$5.8 million in local purchases, and \$4.6 million in state and local taxes.

"The Port of Hueneme is an instrumental and thriving component of Ventura County – forming an essential partnership in their mutual success. Over the years, we have seen the successful expansion and growth of the Port to become a critical point of entry to our local and global economy," said Congresswoman Julia Brownley. "Today we celebrated two exciting undertakings that will culminate in several critical upgrades to the Port's facilities, including wharf improvements, berth and harbor deepening, pavement improvements, and the modernization of cargo handling facilities. Each of these projects will support the growth of exports and imports, reduce congestion, and, most importantly, help create and sustain good paying jobs at the port and throughout our region."

Oxnard Harbor District Board President Jess Herrera kicked off the ceremony stating, "Utilizing green construction and

American made materials, this combination will ensure the Port winning the triple crown for jobs, the economy, and the environment."

The Port's harbor is currently 35 feet in depth, however this new project will bring the harbor's depth to 40 feet. This increased capacity will allow existing vessels to not be constrained waiting for high tide to enter the harbor, making their visits to Hueneme more efficient. CEO & Port Director Kristin Decas explained, "Not only will this project create an additional 500+ jobs, it will safeguard our environment. The pilings used in stabilizing the wharf are an ecofriendly alternative made out of recycled plastic bottles. Our sand removed from the harbor will have a second life as well, being used as near-shore beach re-nourishment to protect our local Hueneme beach from erosion." The project is expected to be completed by March 2020.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, Eric Shen, the Mid-Pacific Director for MARAD U.S. Department of Transportation, congratulated the Port on their \$12.3 million grant stating, "Goods movement is the life-blood of our nation."

In addition to the Deepening Project Groundbreaking today, the Port of Hueneme team joined the state's 10 other

(continued on page 14)



Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director, Port of Hueneme; Port Hueneme Mayor Pro Tem Laura D. Hernandez; Port Hueneme Mayor Will Berg; Port Hueneme Council Member Steven Gama; Eric Shen, Mid-Pacific Director for MARAD, U.S. Department of Transportation; Oxnard Harbor District President Jess Herrera; Congresswoman Julia Brownley; Oxnard Harbor District Commissioner Mary Anne Rooney; Ventura County Supervisor John C. Zaragoza; Matt Guthrie, Field Representative for Supervisor Kelly Long; Jonathan Elías Alvarez-Alzua, Deputy Consul, Consulado de México en Oxnard; Captain Jeff Chism, Commanding Officer, Naval Base Ventura County

Port's Bond Rating Upgraded

In January, the Port of Hueneme, owned by the Oxnard Harbor District, was notified that years of responsible fiscal policy and strategic monetary planning has earned them an 'A' Credit Rating from the Standard and Poor (S & P) bond rating system.

"As an independent special district that does not rely on taxes but on our earned revenue, this accomplishment is a testament to the efforts of our District staff and leadership in prioritizing the Port's fiscal health," stated Oxnard Harbor District President Jess Herrera. "Being a public agency, we have the responsibility to be good stewards of our finances, and this third-party certification signals to the public, potential lenders, and our customers that we have our fiscal house in order."

Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director commented, "This increase in bond rating comes at a crucial time for the Port, as we are embarking on several infrastructure development projects for which the Port may need to go to the bond market to finance. This upgraded rating will allow the Port better borrowing terms, and ultimately save the public millions of dollars over the life of projects."

"It has been one of the top priorities of our finance and accounting department to get the Port into the top tier of bond ratings since I started at the Port in 2007," said Andrew Palomares, Deputy Executive Director & CFO/CAO. "With our cargo volumes up 23% since 2012, it has allowed us to make investments in the future fiscal health of the Port with any extra revenue. The Port was able to begin funding its unfunded liabilities by investing \$1 million to pre-fund its post-employment benefits liability."

The S & P report identifies several factors in their decision to increase the Port's bond rating including: stability in the Port's top business customers, favorable GDP per capita and strong service area economic fundamentals, and strong management and governance that has established a track record and managing risk.

"It was really a team effort," stated Austin Yang, Director of Finance for the Port of Hueneme. "One of the District's strengths on S & P's rating report was the District has 'strong management and governance'. This rating upgrade is a clear signal to the markets and investors that the Port of Hueneme is a good place for their investment." ♦

Upcoming Events

April 10, 2019



MORE INFORMATION: portofhueneme.org/MAST

May 21, 2019



July 27 & 28, 2019

Oxnard SALSA Festival

September 28, 2019

8th Annual



Port Celebrates California Ports Day (continued from page 12)

public seaports to celebrate the second annual California Ports Day on Wednesday, February 20, 2019 at the State Capitol. Hosted by the California Association of Ports (CAPA) and the California Marine and Intermodal Transportation System Advisory Council (CALMITSAC), the Ports Day festivities included briefings with over 35 state legislators and their staffs on the vital role California's ports play in the state and local economies, providing ladders of opportunity promoting social justice in our disenfranchised communities, and leading the world in environmental innovation and programs.

The two-day event also featured the California Maritime Leadership Symposium which brought together the state's 11 public ports, members of the state legislature,



Oxnard Harbor District Commissioner Jason Hodge with fellow panelists

representatives from the environmental sustainability community, leaders of the goods movement transportation industries, and various state agencies including:

- The California Air Resources Board
- The California State Transportation Agency
- The California Energy Commission
- The California Transportation Commission
- The California State Lands Commission



Vice President Jess Ramirez, Oxnard Harbor District ; Thomas White, Chief of Staff for Speaker of the Assembly Rendón; Cam Spencer, Port of Hueneme Government & Public Relations Manager

The Port of Hueneme was represented by three Oxnard Harbor District Commissioners: Jess Ramirez, Jason Hodge, and Mary Anne Rooney; along with Port Director and CEO Kristin Decas and staff.



Mary Anne Rooney, Oxnard Harbor District Commissioner; Shannon Davis, Rincon Consultants; Bruce Stenslie, Economic Development Collaborative

Commissioner Jason Hodge stated, "This Symposium serves as a brain trust to chart the course for continuing our collective Environmental Sustainability efforts. Collaboratively, our ports have reduced air emissions by 80% (particular matter), 90% (SOx), and 50% (NOx)."

The Symposium featured four panels of industry and supply chain experts including Ventura County's Bruce Stenslie of the Economic Development Collaborative and OHD Commissioner Jason Hodge. Keynote Speakers included: California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, State Controller Betty Yee, and Senator Jim Beall. Assemblymember Patrick O'Donnell (Chair of the Assembly Select Committee on Ports and Goods Movement) hosted a panel on Project Partners. Senator Jim Beall and Assemblymember Jim Frazier were awarded the Honoree of Merit Award for their authorship and dedication to pass Senate Bill 1, last year.

Bruce Stenslie of the Economic Development Collaborative stated, "100% of Ventura County's economic growth is directly tied to the Port of Hueneme and global trade collectively. As our county's growth lags behind other coastal counties in our state, it is imperative that our Port has the support it needs to continue driving our local job growth and opportunities for investment in our county."

On a national level, more than 40% of the total containerized cargo entering the United States arrives at California ports and almost 30% of the nation's exports flow through ports in the Golden State. Commissioner Mary Anne Rooney stated, "Ports Day is intended to raise awareness of the immense economic benefits and environmental leadership ports bring to the state, and to collaborate on the most pressing issues of our industry. Our goal is to connect citizens and legislators to the goods movement at our ports. As consumers, large percentages of what we wear, eat, drive, and use to communicate come through the ports on a daily basis." ♦

Port Signs First Ever Project Labor Agreement

Last December, the Oxnard Harbor District Board of Commissioners took a historic step in signing a Project Labor Agreement (PLA). The first of its kind in the Port's 81-year history, the PLA will ensure local labor for all Port projects estimated at or over \$250,000. The PLA will last for three years and may be extended by mutual consent of both the Port and the Unions.

"The Port's priority has always been to hire contractors and labor from our local community, the PLA formalizes this priority and ensures that our projects directly support our local workers and families," said Oxnard Harbor District President Mary Anne Rooney. "We are eager to continue moving the Port forward as the leading provider of homegrown good-paying jobs, real ladders of economic opportunity, and strong environmental leadership."

According to the agreement, the parties will work toward having at least 30% of all construction labor hours worked come from qualified workers residing in Oxnard and Port Hueneme as first priority, those residing in Ventura County as second priority, and those workers residing within Santa Barbara and San Luis Obispo Counties as third priority.

"Although our cargo comes from all over the world, this agreement guarantees that we will continue to provide economic opportunity for our local workforce first and foremost," expanded Oxnard Harbor District Board Secretary Jess Ramirez. "Our projects, and the millions of dollars the Port is planning on investing in our community, is now guaranteed to directly support our local families and workers who help us modernize our Port."

As party to the PLA, both the Port and labor will participate in the "Helmets to Hardhats" program. This program assists in creating

and maintaining an integrated database of veterans interested in working on Port projects and participating in apprenticeship opportunities.

"I would like to thank the Port and Harbor Commissioners for their leadership to accomplish this historic agreement," stated Tony Skinner, President of the IBEW Local 952. "This PLA will go a long way in putting our local people to work, expanding our apprenticeship programs, and giving our returning veterans a place to work when they come home."

"This agreement will provide good paying jobs for our local trades. It provides access to a reliable supply of well-trained, highly-skilled workers and helps keep projects on time and on budget. This is a real win-win for the Port, our labor force, and the community," said Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director. ♦



Kristin Decas and Tony Skinner sign the historic agreement



Assemblymember Monique Limón, Port of Hueneme CEO & Port Director Kristin Decas, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson

Decas Named a Woman of the Year – Senate District 19

In celebration of March's Women's History Month, State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and Assemblymember Monique Limón honored Port of Hueneme CEO & Port Director Kristin Decas, along with 4 other women from Senate District 19, for their commitment to improving the lives of those in the community.

"Representing a wide diversity of backgrounds and contributions, these Women of the Year all share a commitment to their communities and a passion for improving the lives of others," Jackson said. "It is an honor to recognize the tremendous achievements of these remarkable leaders."

Since Decas took the helm at the Port of Hueneme in 2012, the Port's revenues have climbed 23.5%. Decas was the first woman to serve as Port Director for both the Port of New Bedford, Massachusetts in its 50 year history and the Port of Hueneme in its

82 year history. She was the 4th woman to chair the Association of American Port Authorities in its 103 years. With her background in environmental science and law, Decas has led the Port of Hueneme to be voted the Greenest U.S. Port by the Green Shipping Summit and the first Port in California to earn a Green Marine Certification. The Port has earned a reputation in the maritime industry as a leader in sustainable port management and community engagement.

For more information on the Port's Green Initiatives, go to www.portofh.org/green.

"As Vice Chair of the California Legislative Women's Caucus, I know the important role strong women leaders play in the community and what their achievements mean for the empowerment of women statewide. It is my pleasure to award these women for their outstanding achievements, not only in the 37th district but for women in all sectors throughout the state," said Limón.

"It is an honor to receive this accolade from amazing female leaders constantly trailblazing on behalf of women and working tirelessly to represent us all in Sacramento," said Decas. "Our team from Board to staff to community and industry partners aspire to make a difference and invest in our community. We all share this award."

Under Decas' leadership, the Port handled 1.6 million tons of cargo, breaking previous cargo records for the Port. When Ms. Decas is not managing the commercial seaport, she supports her local community by serving on the Dignity Health Ventura County Community Board and the Habit for Humanity Ventura County Advisory Board.

"As a Woman of the Year, Kristin Decas is rightly being recognized as one of the most accomplished women in our community," said Oxnard Harbor District President Jess Herrera. "Her achievements, dedication and tireless energy are an inspiration to all who come in contact with her." ♦

HUENEME DOCK TALK

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