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2019 DOCK TALK  
***Year End Review***

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**The Port**  
**OF Hueneme**  
Oxnard Harbor District

## Message from the Board President



### Happy Holidays!

This fall marked my 25th year of service as an Oxnard Harbor Commissioner. I am humbled that for the past quarter of a century, I have had the privilege of serving my

fellow District residents, ILWU members, Port customers, and stakeholders. As 2019 comes to a close, I reflect on how far we have come in just 12 short months. Our Port has always been the little Port that could do big things; and in 2019, we did just that.

This year, we affirmed our commitment to being the Greenest Port in the United States by becoming the founding host of Clean Air Day for Ventura and Santa Barbara counties. This effort resulted in over 91,000 people taking the pledge for clean air in our two counties – well done! We also celebrated our longest standing customer, Del Monte, on their 40 Year Anniversary at the Port. Since 1979, they have unloaded 51 billion bananas, supported over \$220 million worth of payroll for ILWU and Teamsters, and created thousands of jobs for our local workforce. And, at the end of this month, we will see the last Del Monte breakbulk vessel leave our Port, as they switch completely to containerized cargo. This marks the end of an era, as many of us who work on the waterfront were here when the first pallet of bananas arrived in 1979.

We have also expanded our reach under our World Trade Center of Oxnard umbrella. Hosting our Annual World Trade Week event in May, this year's event focused on the USMCA Trade Agreement and its potential effects on our region. We also hosted a think-tank style consortium at the Port for local businesses to learn about the opportunities and tools to take their businesses to the international marketplace. Our Port has had the honor of hosting various State leaders this year including State Treasurer Fiona Ma for an Affordable Housing Listening Tour and Lenny Mendonca, Chief Economic Advisor to Governor Gavin Newsom, on economic development and competitiveness. We also had the pleasure of hosting the Congressional Climate Crisis Roundtable with Climate Crisis Committee Chair, Kathy Castor of Florida, and Congresswoman Julia Brownley. Our community programs have also flourished this year through hosting various local events and supporting over 80 non-profits in our community.

I want to also applaud our staff as their work has been recognized across the region with our CEO & Port Director Kristin Decas being named "Woman of the Year" by Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and Assemblymember Monique Limon. The Port's Chief Operations Officer, Christina Birdsey, was named to the Pacific Coast Business Times "40 Under 40" for 2019. We have some incredible women and men working at our Port.

Sincerely,

**President Jess Herrera**

*Port of Hueneme, Oxnard Harbor District  
December 2019*

## 2019 Reflections from the Port Director



### Seasons Greetings!

The Grinch may have been green with envy, but we're green with sustainability! Go to [portofh.org/green2020](http://portofh.org/green2020) to watch just how green we became in 2019.

It is my pleasure to bring you our Year End Review edition of *Dock Talk*. Cargo is up, jobs are growing, and emissions are down! In 2019, we welcomed the first-ever electric capable crane at the Port, thanks to Ports America. We are investing over \$3.7 million – \$3 million in grants and \$700,000 in matching funds – to install an electrical system to power clean cargo handling equipment on dock. We demolished an obsolete warehouse on South Terminal to repurpose the footprint for our new electric crane and efficient cargo flow (see page 7).

Investing \$140,000, we installed two reference grade air quality monitors in the South Oxnard area at Haycox Elementary School, representing the newest step of the Port's Clean Air Plan "PHRESH" (Port Reducing Emissions to Support Health). See page 9 for more about the monitors and Clean Air Day.

Hats off to our customers as their work has led to a record breaking 1.65 million tons of cargo passing through the Port, generating 3.6% growth over last year! This growth is largely due to the Port's fresh produce export sector realizing a 70% growth and automobile imports increasing by 13%. These increases build on the past eight years of cargo growth at the Port of Hueneme.

Since 2012, cargo has soared an impressive 26%, which emissions continue to decrease. Our team is committed to working with our customers to keep this sustainable growth trend going in 2020. See more on page 9 about the state of the Port's economy.

Our latest economic study shows jumps in cargo have translated into an increase of jobs from 13,633 to 15,834. These direct, induced, and trade-related jobs continue to provide for our residents to raise their families in beautiful Ventura County! This growth has also generated over \$119 million in state and local tax revenues which support our cities, schools, police, fire, health, and social services departments.

The Port is moving full speed ahead with infrastructure improvements. I am pleased to report that the we are on track to complete the Port's deepening project in 2020. This project promises to create over 530 new jobs for our community by enabling our harbor to accommodate heavier loads of cargo and deeper drafting vessels. We plan to use the sand to protect our local beaches from erosion.

As we have watched our 2020 vision for the Port become reality, our team is setting sail on a public and open process to develop the 2030 Strategic Plan that will guide the development, investment, and improvement plans for the next decade. We invite you to join us throughout this process in the New Year. From all of us here at the Port of Hueneme, we wish you health and success in 2020!

Happy Holidays,

**Kristin Decas**

*CEO & Port Director*



## Women Lead the Way at the Port



### Decas Named Woman of the Year

In celebration of March's Women's History Month, State Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson and Assemblymember

Monique Limón honored Port CEO & Port Director Kristin Decas, along with four 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 and the Port of Hueneme. She was the 4th woman to chair the Association of American Port Authorities in its 103 years. "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 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."

### Port COO is one of 40 Under 40

Christina Birdsey, Chief Operations Officer at the port, for earned a well-deserved spot on the *Pacific Coast Business Times* 40 Under 40 list, a special report on the next crop of up-and-coming business leaders under the age of 40.



Before coming on board directly with Port of Hueneme, Birdsey was a sub-consultant through Moffatt & Nichols for the Port of Hueneme. She has worked on facilitating grant related projects and has assisted in the planning, implementation and reporting. She also helped with the revision of the Facility Security Plan and worked directly with the District's tenants and the U.S. Coast Guard in the development of these plans.

Birdsey has a Bachelor of Science degree in Civil/Environmental Engineering from the University of Southern California.

## US Officials Talk Commerce

The Port of Hueneme partnered with the U.S. Commerce Service, U.S. Small Business Administration and District Export Council to host the "Exporting Success" event in November. Participants interfaced with Embassy Attachés from South Korea, Indonesia, Vietnam, California, Mexico and Singapore.

International liaisons, logistics technology experts, exporters and trade officials discussed how to grow businesses through utilizing technological advances in eCommerce and blockchain in new and emerging markets.

"Today was a wonderful opportunity to have experts on trade and exports come to our Port, exchange ideas, build relationships and support our community of exporters here in Ventura County and the region," reflected Oxnard Harbor District President Jess Herrera. "As the license holder for the World Trade Center Oxnard, we look forward to continuing to host these events."

"This is a chance to learn about innovative strategies to tap markets around the world in a growing global marketplace," explained Port CEO Kristin Decas.

Expert Robert Saikali, VP/Manager of International Banking and Trade Finance for City National Bank provided pro tips on the newest financing options when venturing into international markets and new trade lanes. A focus centered on the emerging markets of Asia, many of whom are becoming a competitive alternative to China in light of the recent trade negotiations. Pellson Lau, Regional Export Finance Manager for the Office of International Trade, U.S. Small Business Administration emphasized the importance of businesses diversifying and balancing their supply chain portfolio to enable effective responses to an everchanging political and logistical environment.

On hand to learn and to share information included Port customers Limoneira, Anacapa Fresh, and Mission Produce, and representatives from the District's two cities also came to learn the nuisances of growing successful export businesses including Port Hueneme City Councilmember Rich Rollins and City of Oxnard Community Development Director Jeffrey Lambert. At the event, Lambert commented, "The Port of Hueneme is a tremendous economic engine for our community and working to increase trade through programs like this will provide a direct economic benefit to the City of Oxnard." ♦



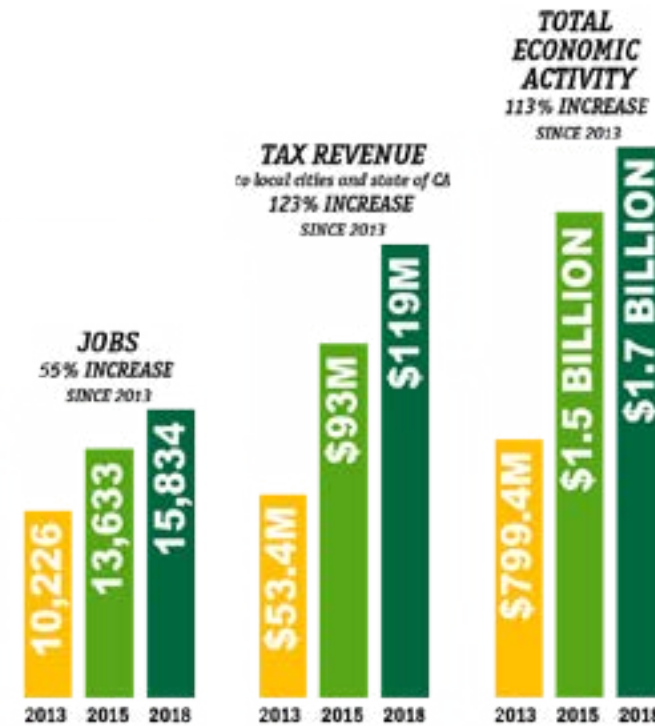
Roundtable Discussion "What About Asia?" at Exporting Success event

## State of the Port of Hueneme Economy

FY 2019 over FY 2018 Performance

July 1, 2018 - June 30, 2019 Annual Tonnage

### Economic Impacts



### Import Activity

#### Auto Imports

- Up 13% (YTD-FY 2019 compared to FY 2018)
- FY 2019 autos: 326,585

#### Fruit & Vegetables Total (Pineapple, Melons) Export & Import

- Up 1% (YTD-FY 2019 compared to FY 2018)
- 2019 tonnage: 257,589

#### Banana Imports

- 2019 tonnage: 634,201

#### Fertilizer Imports

- Up 3% (YTD-FY 2019 compared to FY 2018)
- 2019 tonnage: 156,284



**\$1.65 Million Revenue**  
**Tons of Total Cargo**



**342,510 Autos**



**66,613 High & Heavy Tons**

### Export Activity

#### Auto Exports

- Down 18% (YTD-FY 2019 compared to FY 2018)
- 2018/19 Autos: 156,925

#### Fruit & Vegetables Exports (Apples, Pears, Oranges, Grapes, Stone Fruits, Vegetables)

- Up 70% (YTD-FY 2019 compared to FY 2018)
- 2019 tonnage: 49,574

### Import/Export Combined

#### General Cargo (Not specified cargo NOS as identified in the Port's Tariff No. 7)

- Down 3% (YTD-FY 2019 compared to FY 2018)
- 2019 tonnage: 103,741

### Domestic Cargoes

#### Shallow Draft Cargo (Fish, lube oil, vessel fuel)

- Down 24% (YTD-FY 2019 compared to FY 2018) compared to 2018)
- 2019 tonnage: 12,900

#### Domestic - Offshore Oil Equipment Cargo

- Up 16% (YTD-FY 2019 compared to FY 2018)
- 2019 tonnage: 38,956



# State of the Port Address Presented to Oxnard Chamber of Commerce

Suggesting that the business community should be “mad as hell” at the stagnant economic growth in the county, Oxnard Harbor District Board President Jess Herrera addressed the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce members on October 10, 2019 with a path forward for economic prosperity. Throughout his speech, Herrera referenced the challenging business climate that he believes has kept Ventura County’s economic growth flat for the last two years, despite economic prosperity elsewhere.

Herrera is encouraging government and business to collaborate more so that Ventura County can grow and thrive, stressing that economic growth is dependent upon business and government working together. “The road to economic well-being has to go through Main Street,” said Herrera, referencing the statistic that 30% of exports from the U.S. are from small business enterprise.

To its credit, The Port of Hueneme infused \$1.7 billion into the economic last year, up from \$1.5 billion in 2015. Imports at The Port for autos, fruit and vegetables and fertilizer are all up in 2019.

Auto imports show a 13% increase in 2019 over 2018, while fruit and vegetable exports show a whopping 70% increase at the Port.

“The Port of Hueneme depends upon a political will to grow. Our communities need more jobs,” added Herrera. Currently, the City of Oxnard has a 16% poverty rate.

Herrera has been elected to the Oxnard Harbor District Board of Commissioners seven times, and is currently serving as Board President. During his tenure, he has played a role in expanding the Port’s infrastructure that has resulted in the creation of hundreds of jobs that benefit the local economy.

Nancy Lindholm, President and CEO of the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce took the stage after Herrera stating, “Thank you President Herrera, and we are with you!” ♦



OHD Board President Jess Herrera

Attendees pose with their “Ocean of Opportunity” shirts

# Modernizing the Docks

## Port Deepening

The harbor deepening is anticipated to begin at the start of the new year. This 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.

## Making Space

The Port is moving forward on completing demolition of an outdated warehouse (below), due to be completed by the end of the year. Demolition of obsolete buildings will allow for greater optimization of terminal space, cargo operations, and vessel berthing.



## Community Spotlight: Going Local



The Port of Hueneme is committed to community and we are proud to collaborate with our neighbors, customers and partners. This year, we have had the pleasure to be involved with education outreach events such as helping to make the Ventura County Mobile Library a reality, getting involved with First 5 California reading events, and a book giveaway and resource festival in South Oxnard. We have also coordinated meaningful community activities with residents and stakeholders such as: pumpkin painting at the park, sponsoring and volunteering at Thanksgiving community holiday meals, and coffee for veterans. These activities foster trust and help develop a sense of commitment to creating opportunities for the community. Having a community specific lens through which Port of Hueneme projects are framed and implemented helps increase support, visibility and stakeholder partnership. It is the vision of the Port to embark on the next year with the community as a copilot in the sea of opportunity.





# Clean Air with Sustainability ...something even the Grinch would love!



## Port Takes Second in State for Clean Air Day Pledges

A resounding 91,000 people took the pledge thanks to the Port of Hueneme bringing Clean Air Day to Ventura and Santa Barbara counties as the founding host. A variety of events led up to the official Clean Air Day on October 2, 2019.



Banana Festival attendee signs the Clean Air Day pledge online

It is only fitting that the Port would be the founding host of Clean Air Day for our counties," said OHD President Jess Herrera. "Since 2008, the Port has reduced air emissions by 85%. No other agency has done this, and we are proud to carry the banner for Clean Air Day, standing ready to continue being a champion for our local environment."

Local residents joined over 1.2 million Californians in making a conscious effort to promote clean air for their communities. The Port exceeded their goal of 100,000, with over 165,000 people registering in Ventura and Santa Barbara counties.

## Port Unveils First Air Monitors for South Oxnard

Investing \$140,000, the Port installed two reference grade air quality monitors in the South Oxnard area at Haycox Elementary School, which were unveiled on Clean Air Day.

"This is another example of the Port taking the lead and showing through our actions that we are committed to continuing to reduce air emissions for our local community," said OHD Commissioner Jason Hodge.

The Port's air monitors will measure particulate matter, wind

direction and intensity, and temperature. They will serve as a reference point for the smaller handheld monitors throughout the county to be calibrated, improving their accuracy and the validity of their data collection.

Ventura County Air Pollution Control District Officer Laki Tisopulos stated, "The monitors that you see here today are the best of the best, the Cadillac, state of the art." The system deploys lasers to measure the particulate matter in the air, resulting in higher accuracy and more ready to share information.

Hueneme Elementary School District Superintendent Dr. Christine Walker stated, "We are absolutely thrilled to be partnering with the Port in this next step of putting in an air quality monitor in our community, and specifically at our Haycox school. The staff is very excited about hosting this new equipment."

Brian Sheridan, Development Director for the Coalition for Clean Air applauded the Port's commitment to hosting the day for the two counties stating, "The Port of Hueneme has been an invaluable partner in our California Clean Air Day efforts. Their support has helped us establish a community of clean air "pledgers" committed to improving the quality of life in the region. We can't thank them enough for their support and for their efforts to continually reduce emissions at the Port."



Southwinds community and AIRE members celebrate at the unveiling

As members of the South Oxnard and Hueneme community gathered at the Port for the unveiling of the air monitors, Southwind's Neighborhood Council President Carolina Gallardo reflected, "I am excited because we will be able to monitor the quality of air for our residents and especially for our kids." ♦

## Governor's Top Economic Advisor Discusses Economic Opportunity

California's top economic advisor Lenny Mendonca met with Port leadership and customers on November 15 to create greater economic opportunity in the region. Mendonca began his visit with a tour seeing Port operations firsthand including the shoreside power system enabling vessels to plug into electricity at berth, reducing air emissions by 87%.

Mendonca addressed the business leaders stating, "The Port and its customers are vital to the local, state, and national economies. Their commitment to leading this region in a path forward toward higher wage jobs and sustainable environmental practices should be replicated around our state."

Oxnard Harbor District President Jess Herrera reflected on the day stating, "I was encouraged to see our state's top economic advisor visit our Port today. We were able to share the port industry perspective on the challenges of existing regulatory costs and new opportunities that we can collectively leverage to bring investment to our Port communities, including opportunity zone funding."

Citing the Port's leadership as the country's greenest port, CEO & Port Director Kristin Decas led the roundtable discussion focusing on how the Port balances generating economic opportunity and job creation while reducing the carbon footprint of the Port. "We were pleased to voice our perspective with the state's top economic advisor and express the need to create jobs and build our local economy with joint effort to balance global climate change goals."

Customers from the Port's automotive, fresh produce, and fertilizer industries voiced concerns about new environmental regulations brewing in Sacramento that could add another layer of costs to an already competitive marketplace for seaborne cargo. Nancy Lindholm CEO of the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce and Bruce Stenslie of the Economic Development Collaborative represented the voice of the county's larger business community weighing in on the importance of cultivating a business friendly environment. According to the Civic Alliance's 2019 State of the Region Report, Ventura County has experienced stagnant job growth for the past five years, with the Port being one of only a few industries growing local jobs.

"One in three jobs in our state are tied to the ports, and having our state's leadership understand the positive ripple effect we have on growing the middle class is paramount to our local and state economy's success," stated Port Public and Government Relations Manager Cam Spencer. "Today's visit shows our message is being heard and we have a partner in the Governor's office." ♦

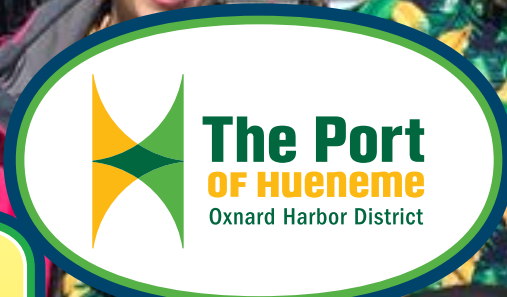


Top: Port leadership, customers, and business community leaders pose at roundtable discussion

Center: CEO & Port Director Kristin Decas leads discussion on creating sustainable economic opportunity with Port customers

Bottom: Port Public & Government Relations Manager Cam Spencer, CEO & Port Director Kristin Decas, GoBiz Director Lenny Mendonca Oxnard Harbor District President Jess Herrera, Port Environmental Manager Giles Pettifor, Economic Development Collaborative President and CEO Bruce Stenslie





# Banana Festival

Yellow banana wigs, boat rides, sounds of a tropical steel drum band and perfect late summer weather got the party started at the Port for the 8th Annual Banana Festival on September 28, 2019! Welcoming over 12,000 people inside the Port, Oxnard Harbor District President Jess Herrera stated, “The Port of Hueneme has always been the little Port that could and can do big things. Thanks to the ability of our talented staff to work toward a common vision and their individual strengths and accomplishments, there is only one way that this Port can continue to go, and that’s forward.”

Eager festivalgoers lined up at the entrance to be first in line for the Port’s famous boat tours of the harbor to get a behind the scenes look at Port operations. As the community explored, they learned that the Port is one of the nation’s top ten automobile ports and a gateway to move the crops grown here in Ventura County to global trading partners. Of course, the banana was a big part of the show, being the Port’s

largest import commodity. Tour attendees also learned that the Port is the Greenest Port in the USA, having reduced air emissions by 85% since 2009.

“It’s another day in paradise at the Port of Hueneme! I am so glad that we have an immense amount of people here today enjoying the hospitality that the Port has to offer,” said Oxnard Harbor District Vice President Jess Ramirez. “This was my vision when we first started the Festival over eight years ago, to bring our community into the Port to see all of our equipment and cranes so they can see what makes this Port move cargo.” The Port’s union labor partners were present at the Festival, showcasing their trades under the Port’s first-ever Project Labor Agreement.

Attendees danced their way around the festival celebrating the over 3.3 billion bananas that come through the Port of Hueneme each year, making the it the banana capital of the West Coast. They were treated to free bananas from Chiquita

and Del Monte Fresh, the Port’s two largest banana importers. Attendees were delighted with banana-inspired foods including taffy, deep fried banana fritters, popcorn, banana beignets, chocolate frozen bananas, funnel cake – and on the savory side, banana empanadas, banana lumpias and peanut butter banana melts from the grilled cheese truck!

During the main stage program, the Oxnard Harbor District Commissioners were joined by several elected and government officials including:

- Supervisor Kelly Long
- Supervisor John Zaragoza
- Sheriff Bill Ayub
- Ventura County Agricultural Commissioner Ed Williams
- Port Hueneme Mayor Pro Tem Laura Hernandez
- Port Hueneme Councilmember Rich Rollins
- Port Hueneme Councilmember Steven Gama
- Oxnard Councilmember Oscar Madrigal
- Oxnard Councilmember Bert Perello
- Mexican Consul Adscrito Jonathan Elias Alvarez Alzua

This year’s main stage backdrop was the most impressive yet, with the Port’s first-ever electric hybrid mobile harbor crane towering over the crowd. The crane will soon run completely on electricity and reduce air emissions even further during Port operations.

While on stage, the Port’s leadership signed the Clean Air Day Resolution formally hosting Ventura and Santa Barbara counties’ first-ever Clean Air Day on October 2. *See page 10 for more Clean Air Day news.*

Commissioner Mary Anne Rooney stated, “We appreciate the community coming out to support the Port, our clean air initiatives, and all of our environmental projects that we a working on to benefit our residents and the surrounding ecosystem.”

Oxnard Harbor District Secretary Jason Hodge said, “It’s a great weekend to have all these people come to the Port

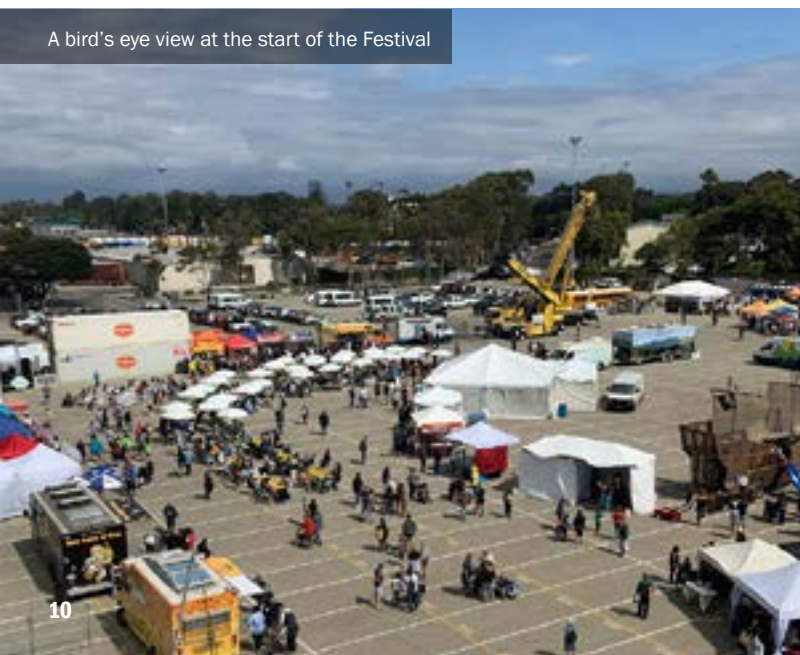
to see our environmental progress in action, and a perfect segue into Ventura County’s first Clean Air Day, of which we are proud to be the founding host.”

Ventura County Supervisor Kelly Long stated, “What a great day with the Port at their annual Banana Festival. Home to the Greenest Port in the USA, our County has a true gem that not only creates good jobs, but also is on the cutting edge of environmental initiatives. It’s my pleasure to work with them in continuing sustainable growth for our County for generations to come!”

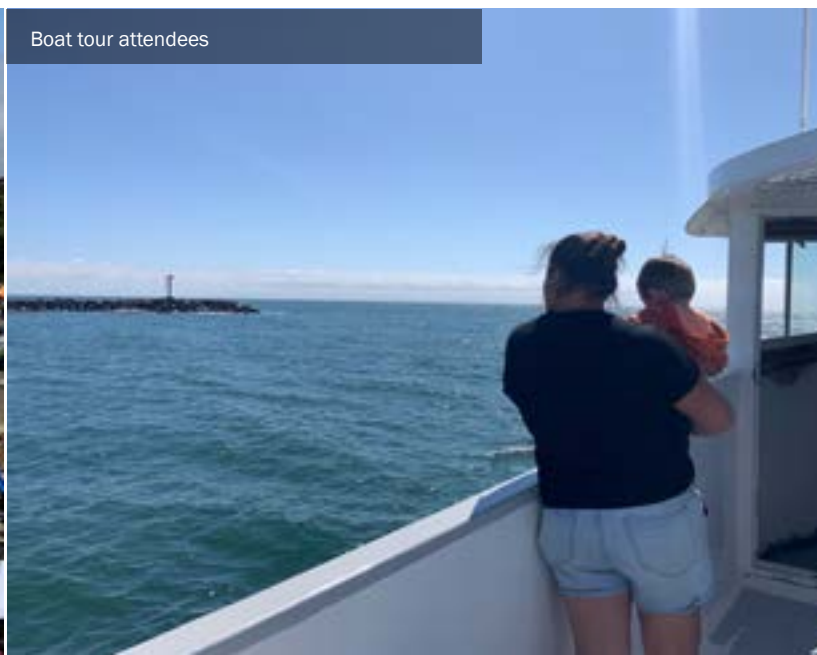


Throughout the day, attendees not only celebrated all things banana, but also learned about the automobiles, high and heavy cargo, fertilizer and squid products that move through the Port on a daily basis. In addition, the community was able to tour the train which transports various cargo to and from the Port, including automobiles and military cargo.

Festivalgoers Walter and Camille Morris of Oxnard stated, “Today, we got to see the Port from two different sides, the land and water. It was a great experience, learning that the Port is the Greenest in the USA, makes you want to do green things and be more fuel efficient!” ♦



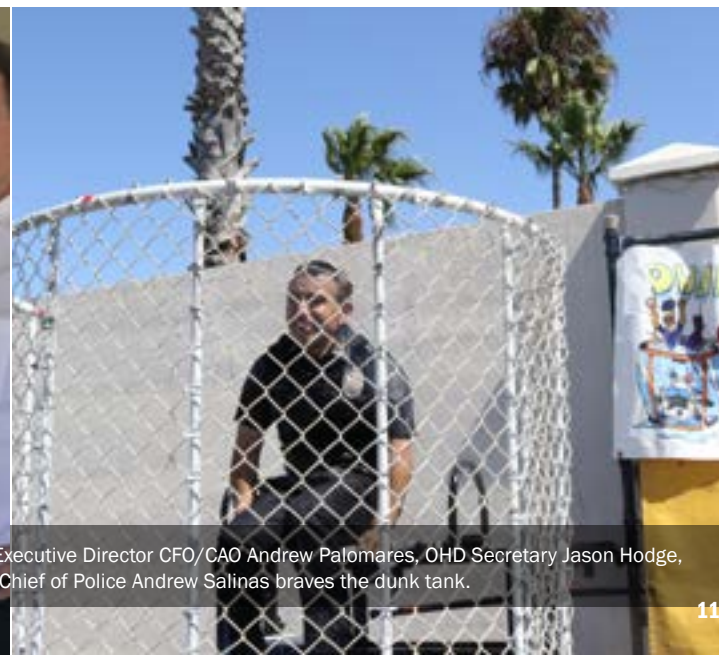
A bird’s eye view at the start of the Festival



Boat tour attendees



Signing the Clean Air Day pledge - at left: California State Treasurer Fiona Ma, Port Deputy Executive Director CFO/CAO Andrew Palomares, OHD Secretary Jason Hodge, and Coalition for Clean Air Day Development Director Brian Sheridan. Right: Port Hueneme Chief of Police Andrew Salinas braves the dunk tank.





# HUENEME DOCK TALK

2019 YEAR END REVIEW



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