



# SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT PRESS RELEASE

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## Shenzhen, Long Beach Ports, South Coast AQMD Sign Green Framework

*Partnership promotes sustainable development of ports, maritime economies*

**DIAMOND BAR**--The Port of Long Beach, Shenzhen Port Group, Hutchison Ports YANTIAN (YANTIAN), South Coast Air Quality Management District (South Coast AQMD) and the North American Representative Office of Shenzhen, have signed a memorandum of cooperation to collaborate on decarbonizing ocean trade and inspire other similar efforts to build a green maritime economy around the Pacific Rim.



Representatives for the parties signed the memorandum in Shenzhen, China, on Sept. 22. It establishes a framework to support coordination of technical exchanges and programs, initiate shared efforts to deploy clean technologies, promote sustainable infrastructure development within the maritime industry and promote economic development prioritizing sustainability and public health.

Potential collaborations may include maritime technology demonstration projects, programs to attract cleaner oceangoing vessels – because vessels are a key contributor to emissions associated with international trade – and information exchanges conducted through virtual meetings and regional workshops.

“One of the most important parts of strategic partnerships like this is the ability to target shipborne emissions, a source we have little power to regulate as a local port authority,” said Port of Long Beach CEO Mario Cordero. “We see the potential for this agreement to make fleets cleaner sooner. The technologies and practices we develop through this agreement also have the potential to have a positive impact on the environment and economies far beyond our two ports and cities.”

“The Port of Long Beach is honored and proud to be part of a collective effort to operate more sustainably and develop the green economy, all while protecting public health,” said Long Beach Harbor Commission President Bonnie Lowenthal. “This type of international collaboration is critical to our shared goal of decarbonizing shipping in the decades ahead.”

“Working together with our port partners, we have seen firsthand how we can accelerate the reduction of harmful emissions in nearby communities,” said South Coast AQMD Executive Officer Wayne Nastri. “The

South Coast AQMD is excited to work with all our partners in this agreement to continue developing innovative strategies to reduce emissions and improve public health.”

“Building on the signing of this memorandum, we will drive initiatives in new fuel bunkering technologies, such as green methanol, and the development of zero-carbon ro-ro terminals,” said Shenzhen Port Group Chairman Zhaoyang Hu. “By enhancing communication and information sharing between the two ports, we aim to improve cargo transportation efficiency and establish more advanced green shipping corridors. These efforts will play a key role in achieving global Dual-Carbon Goal and fostering deeper economic and trade cooperation between China and the U.S.”

“The shipping industry is a cornerstone of global trade and economy. We recognize the importance of establishing partnerships and aligning our efforts towards common goals,” said YANTIAN Managing Director Lawrence Shum. “Through this memorandum, we commit to collaborating on technical exchanges, knowledge sharing and project cooperation, positioning ourselves as ‘pioneers’ in the green ocean economy of the Pacific Rim.”

The memorandum signed Sunday will also explore the possibility of a Sister Ports Agreement between the Port of Long Beach, the second-busiest seaport in the United States, which handled 8 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) in 2023, and YANTIAN, which is one of the world’s largest container terminals run by a single operator.

The Port of Long Beach is known worldwide for its Green Port Policy, a landmark 2005 commitment to environmental sustainability that has led to dramatic reductions in emissions and improvements in water quality and biodiversity of local waters. Together with the neighboring Port of Los Angeles, the Port of Long Beach created in 2006 the Clean Air Action Plan — a sweeping, innovative and comprehensive strategy to tackle every source of port-related air pollution.

### **About the South Coast AQMD**

South Coast AQMD is the regulatory agency responsible for improving air quality for large areas of Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside and San Bernardino counties, including the Coachella Valley. As the primary gateway to the U.S. for cross-Pacific trade, the region is home to a robust goods movement industry. However, this goods movement activity also contributes about half of local air pollution. Given the challenge of reducing local emissions from ships that travel internationally, South Coast AQMD has been pursuing cross-Pacific cooperation for several years through its Pacific Rim Initiative for Maritime Emission Reductions (PRIMER). This agreement grew from that initiative, and was facilitated greatly by the diligent work of the North American Representative Office of Shenzhen.

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### **About the Port of Long Beach**

The Port of Long Beach is a global leader in green port initiatives and top-notch customer service, moving cargo with reliability, speed and efficiency. As the premier U.S. gateway for trans-Pacific trade, the Port handles trade valued at \$200 billion annually and supports 2.6 million jobs across the United States, including 575,000 in Southern California. In 2024, industry leaders named it “The Best West Coast Seaport in North America” for the sixth consecutive year. During the next 10 years, the Port is planning \$2.3 billion

in capital improvements aimed at enhancing capacity, competitiveness and sustainability.

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