

## **Editorial: Port proves its worth in logging record revenues**

Staff Reports

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Even to those Ventura County residents who don't live within the Oxnard Harbor District there should be more than passing interest in the success of the Port of Hueneme.

Port officials just reported revenues for fiscal year 2012 totaled a record \$12.2 million, suggesting the port has clearly emerged from the economic doldrums of the last few years.

Many of the economic benefits from the port are felt primarily in the Oxnard and Port Hueneme areas around the facility but there is a ripple effect that extends throughout the county.

According to a January report, the port generates about \$202 million a year in economic output, generating \$15.4 million in state and local taxes and supporting 1,516 jobs — many of them held by county residents who live outside the Oxnard-Port Hueneme area.

Much of this is the result of car manufacturers and fruit importers finding the Port of Hueneme an increasingly attractive alternative to overcrowded facilities in the Los Angeles area.

Thus, it's no surprise that those who deal in cars and fresh produce contributed heavily to the record revenue, accounting for more than 75 percent of the port's operating revenues.

According to port officials, revenues for auto cargo operations rose nearly 18 percent to \$6.6 million in fiscal 2012. Fresh produce revenues climbed 7.4 percent to \$2.9 million.

While it's true that the commissioners who run the district are elected from within the Oxnard-Hueneme area — giving the rest of the county little say — it's also true, judging from the record revenues, the remainder of the county can rest assured that the district is being managed very successfully.