

# HUENEME DOCK TALK

2024 YEAR END NEWSLETTER



**The Port**  
**OF HUENEME**  
Oxnard Harbor District



## Your Port of Hueneme Commissioners



**Celina L. Zacarias**  
President



**Jess J. Ramirez**  
Vice President



**Jason T. Hodge**  
Secretary



**Mary Anne Rooney**  
Commissioner



**Jess J. Herrera**  
Commissioner

## Vision

To operate as a self-supporting port that enforces the principles of sound public stewardship maximizing the potential of maritime-related commerce and regional economic benefit.

## Mission

To be the preferred port for specialized cargo and provide the maximum possible economic and social benefits to our community and industries served.

## Port Overview

The Port of Hueneme is one of the most productive and efficient commercial trade gateways on the West Coast. Five locally elected Port Commissioners govern the Port. The Port consistently ranks among the top ten U.S. ports for automobiles and fresh produce. Port operations support the community by bringing \$2.8 billion in economic activity and creating 25,000 trade-related jobs. Trade through the Port of Hueneme generates more than \$236 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 and was voted the Greenest Port in the U.S. at the Green Shipping Summit.



## Message From The Board President



I am filled with immense pride and heartfelt gratitude as I reflect on this past year as your President of the Oxnard Harbor District. The accomplishments achieved are a testament to the collective hard work and dedication of all of YOU who have walked this path

with me and embody the essence of the saying, "it takes a village." These successes are a reflection of our shared commitment to progress, innovation, and community.

Our connection with our community has never been stronger! Our team and I have supported, sponsored, and volunteered at countless community drives, conferences, and events, allowing us to connect with thousands of constituents and Port stakeholders this year. These interactions have allowed us to better understand the needs and aspirations of our community. Through our Community Benefit Fund, in partnership with the City of Port Hueneme, more than \$130 thousand went to support homegrown partners such as Hueneme Little League, local youth scholarships for college freshmen, and the very first 5k Fun Run & Health Fair for the city. Coupled with an additional \$300 thousand in direct sponsorship from our very own Community Outreach Department our port has helped support more than 50 local nonprofit organizations and brought more than 2000 individuals across Ventura County to visit our port complex.

Deep and meaningful dialogue with our community, locally elected officials, Sacramento state legislators, and U.S. Congressional representatives have been instrumental in advocating for policies that benefit our district by positively impacting our broader community. These relationships have enabled us to secure over \$100 million in funding to support key projects, including workforce development

initiatives and environmental advancements such as our community air monitoring program and the addition of our emission-capturing Stax barge. Environmental advancement, innovation, and sustainability remain a top priority for our port. The \$42.2 million award from the EPA Clean Ports Program will be used to advance our efforts and charge forward toward a zero-emission future, improving our position as environmental leaders in the maritime industry.

Our collaboration with local educational institutions such as Oxnard College has helped create pipelines for our local workforce to acquire good-paying jobs in the maritime industry through our new Logistics Certificate. We will continue to work diligently with our local educators and institutions of higher learning to bridge our community with our global business partners to create access to new opportunities and jobs. Thus far our efforts have resulted in the creation of 25,000 trade-related jobs and have significantly contributed to our regional economy.

To my family, friends, colleagues, and the entire community, your encouragement, belief, and steadfast support have been the bedrock of this past year's success. You have shared in my vision and ambitions, and together, we have been able to overcome challenges and celebrate triumphs. As we close this chapter and look forward to the new year, I want to express my deepest gratitude to everyone who has supported and collaborated with us throughout this journey. Your dedication and partnership have been instrumental in our achievements, and I am truly honored to serve this incredible community. While my tenure as President of the Oxnard Harbor District comes to an end, my commitment to our community remains unwavering. I will continue to serve as a board member on the Board of Harbor Commissioners, working diligently to advance our shared goals and ensure the prosperity and sustainability of our port and its surrounding areas.

**President Celina L. Zacarias**

Port of Hueneme, Oxnard Harbor District



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

*We Make Cargo Move*

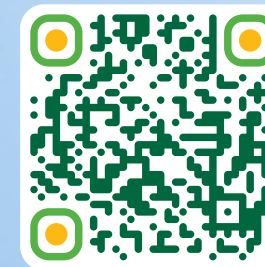
Foreign Trade Zone #205



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OXNARD

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*The Port is on Social Media!*



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**MORNING MARGARETA**

모닝 마가레타

JEJU

제 주

C.H. 5.1M  
C.H. 3.4M  
C.H. 2.9M

AXLE LOAD 50MT/2W  
50MT/4W

S.W.L. 100MT

S.W.L. 100TGS  
MAX AXLELOAD 95'

## Welcome from Port Director Kristin Decas



Thanks to our wonderful partners, I can gratefully say that 2024 was a year full of “wins” for the Port of Hueneme!

Let’s start with a shout out to our tremendous customers who bring their business to Port of Hueneme and employ thousands of residents.

We can proudly report record volumes of commodities transit our gates to feed and move our nation.

We are a Port that bounces back, and this certainly rang true in 2024. Despite a once-in-a-lifetime storm event last December that devastated the local area and caused severe damage to the Port of Hueneme’s Shoreside Power System, local community leaders, elected officials, and labor leaders joined forces in response to rebuilding infrastructure critical to port operations. We deeply appreciate the understanding and support we received from our community and other stakeholders during a time of uncertainty. I am happy to share that we are now on the path towards rebuilding our shoreside power system with the help of a \$40 million CDA grant from the state.

As part of our 2024 journey, our Board of Harbor Commissioners unanimously committed to make operations at the Port of Hueneme zero emissions by 2030. This historic announcement marks a critical step in our commitment to environmental sustainability and climate action. The Port of Hueneme has made significant progress in reducing emissions by using low and zero emissions vehicles and equipment and by working with our customers to deploy advanced, cleaner technology. This ambitious goal to be zero emission by 2030 can only be possible with the incredible support of our strong government, community, labor, and business partners.

A real “game-changer” for the Port was the \$3.9 million in funding we received from the state of California to transform cloud-based data management among four other ports including the Port of Hueneme. This one-time funding will allow us to enhance goods movement and improve the supply chain through enhanced data operability. We are excited to see the future impacts of this innovative approach to a data-driven solution that will further strengthen containerized ports.

Under the federal Inflation Reduction Act, the Port of Hueneme was granted an unprecedented \$42.3 million from the EPA’s Clean Ports Program for the implementation of our Blueprint to Decarbonization. This historic grant sets the pace for the Port of Hueneme to lead the way as the nation’s first fully zero emission port for cargo handling equipment and enables us to enhance the quality of life for our adjacent communities with state-of-the-art clean operations. We are grateful for the support of our Board of Harbor Commissioners, elected officials, local leaders, customer, ILWU, trades, non-profit, and community partners that were instrumental to help the Port secure this funding and achieve these ambitious goals.

Your Port appreciates you for an incredible 2024 and we look forward to making 2025 full of many more wins. Happy Holidays and Warmest Wishes!!!

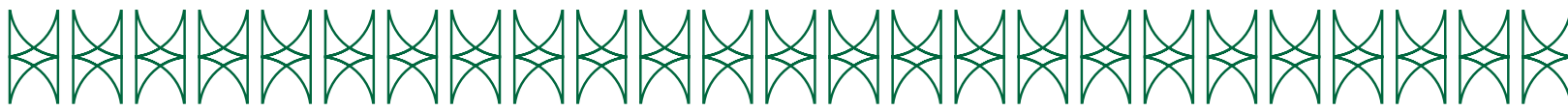
Thank you for all you do for the Port of Hueneme!

**Sincerely, Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director**



Our Port crew is on call to answer any questions at (805) 488-3677 or visit us at [www.portofhueneme.org](http://www.portofhueneme.org).





# Two California State Dignitaries Create a Big Splash During First Visit to The Port of Hueneme

## Chair of Select Committee on Ports & Goods Movement and GO-Biz Director Tour Port of Hueneme

The Port of Hueneme welcomed two distinguished visitors, Dee Dee Myers, the Director of the Governor’s Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz), and Assemblymember Mike A. Gipson, Chair of the Select Committee on Ports and Goods Movement. The two California officials toured The Port of Hueneme’s onsite facilities and learned about its unique Hueneme Way of supporting logistics and trade through its collaboration and utilization of offsite facilities to create more job opportunities for local residents and maximize the throughput and efficiency of California bound cargo. As the only deep-water Port between Los Angeles and San Francisco, The Port of Hueneme serves as a vital link in the supply chain, handling over \$15.8 billion worth of cargo annually.

Director Myers visited The Port of Hueneme on her way to keynote a local Economic Development Collaborative (EDC) event honoring port CEO Kristin Decas as the new board chair. The very next day, as part of his tour of all ports along the California Coast Assemblymember Gipson met with port officials, stakeholders, and workers to learn

about The Port of Hueneme’s operations, challenges, and achievements. His goal is to gather insights, best practices, and opportunities from each of the ports to inform a comprehensive white paper that will guide the state’s policies and investments in this vital industry. Both Director Myers and Assemblymember Gipson were instrumental in establishing a \$27 million Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to create a partnership among five California container ports to help build greater cooperation and standardization when it comes to the collection, transformation, of supply chain data amongst California ports and the state.

“We are honored to have had Director Myers and Assemblymember Gipson visit our Port and witness our logistics and trade excellence,” said Celina Zacarias, President of the Oxnard Harbor District Board of Commissioners. “The Hueneme Way is the result of our collaborative efforts with our customers, our community, and our state. We are proud to be a model of innovation and efficiency for the maritime industry.”

The Port is a leader in logistics and trade, having established strategic partnerships with several companies. Offsite facilities such as BMW North America and Anacapa Fresh Logistics, which Director Myers and Assemblymember Gipson toured, increase the speed and quality of service and further reduce emissions because of their close proximity to the Port of Hueneme. Together, the Port and its partners utilize state-of-the-art technology and equipment to ensure the safe and smooth movement of cargo, such as automobiles, and produce such as bananas, blueberries, and pineapples.

*“The Port of Hueneme is a shining example of how ports can be both engines of growth and champions of sustainability,”*

said Director Myers. “The Port’s logistics and trade support is impressive and commendable as it enhances the competitiveness and resilience of our supply chain and reduces our environmental impact. This is a win-win for our economy and our planet.”

Assemblymember Gipson echoed Director Myers’ sentiments and added: “As the Chair of the Select Committee on Ports and Goods Movement, I am impressed by the Port of Hueneme’s achievements and aspirations. The Port is a vital

asset for our state — supporting thousands of jobs and generating millions of dollars in tax revenue. The Port’s logistics and trade support is exemplary and inspiring as it showcases the power of partnership and technology to optimize our supply chain and serve our customers. This is a great example of how California leads the way in innovation and collaboration.”

Both Director Myers and Assemblymember Gipson were welcomed by Kristin Decas, CEO and Port Director of The Port of Hueneme, representatives from Naval Base Ventura County, the Economic Development Collaborative of Ventura County, and the FATHOMWERX facility located at The Port of Hueneme.

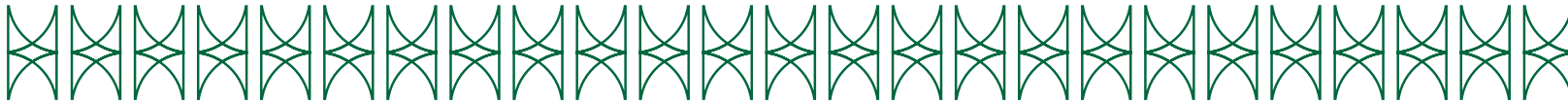
FATHOMWERX is a technology-based collaborative that fuses academia, civilian and DoD partners to work on the most challenging problems in the Port and maritime domains. It serves as a public-private laboratory, community, and resource for technological innovation, leveraging the unique assets and capabilities of The Port of Hueneme and the surrounding ecosystem. During the tour, Director Myers and Assemblymember Gipson learned about the various projects and programs that FATHOMWERX supports, such as unmanned systems, environmental monitoring, Port security, and workforce development. They also interacted with some of the entrepreneurs,

researchers, and student leaders who are part of the FATHOMWERX network and witnessed demonstrations of cutting-edge technologies and prototypes.

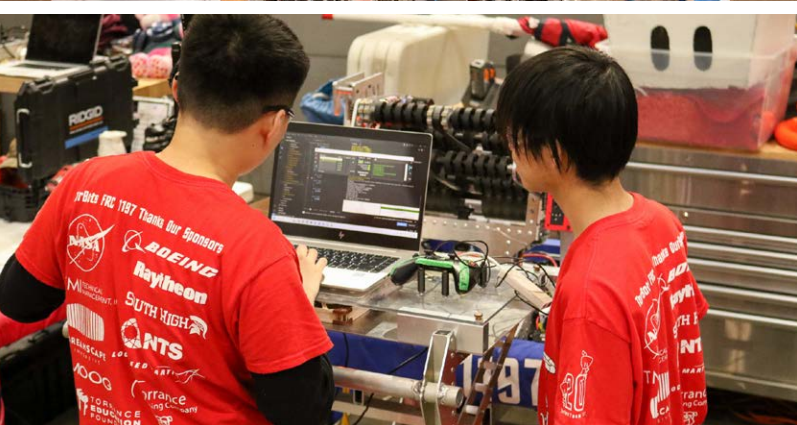
Director Myers praised FATHOMWERX for its role in fostering economic development and innovation in the region. “Ports are the lifeline of California, connecting us to the rest of the world and generating billions of dollars in revenue and taxes,” she said – “FATHOMWERX is helping our Ports to become more efficient, resilient, and competitive in the global market, while also addressing the environmental and social challenges that they face. I commend The Port of Hueneme and its partners for their vision and leadership in establishing this innovative hub.”

Director Myers and Assemblymember Gipson expressed their appreciation for the Port’s leadership and vision and praised the Port for its economic and environmental contributions to the region and the state.

“The Port of Hueneme is proud to be a gateway for international trade and a source of jobs and economic prosperity for our region. We thank Director Myers and Assemblymember Gipson for their time and commitment to helping us continue to Make Cargo Move! Their leadership and support for California ports, like ours, is vital for our region’s economic resilience and development.” – Kristin Decas, CEO and Port Director of The Port of Hueneme.



# FIRST Robotics “Hueneme Port Regional” takes place at FATHOMWERX Lab for Third Consecutive Year



**Over 1,500 high school students from around the world will showcase their engineering skills and innovations at the Port of Hueneme.**

The Port of Hueneme and City of Port Hueneme are thrilled to host the FIRST Robotics Hueneme Port Regional Competition in their vibrant coastal community. The Competition takes place over two weekends from March 1-3, 2024 and March 9 & 10, 2024 located onsite at the Port of Hueneme in the FATHOMWERX lab — a collaborative space for innovation and technology transfer between the Port, the Naval Base Ventura County, the Economic Development Collaborative, and Matter Labs.

The exhilarating event brings over 1,500 high school students from across the world together along with their 51 life-sized robots to test the power of collaboration and measure the effectiveness of innovations and is made possible in part through the Port of Hueneme & City of Port Hueneme’s joint Community Benefit Fund. First Robotics is an exemplary partner as their mission not only fosters creativity and technical prowess but also focuses on strengthening community bonds. Support of their work is crucial as it empowers young minds, encourages innovation, and ensures a brighter future for our coastal community.

“The innovative spirit I see in these students is exactly what the Navy and the nation needs as we deliver and sustain increasingly complex combat systems to our Fleet,” said Michael Ladner, NSWC PHD Deputy Technical Director. “I’m also impressed not only by their ability to integrate mechanical, electrical, and software components into their robots, but also with their experiences with teaming, collaboration, problem solving and conflict resolution. Those are skillsets that will support them in whatever careers they pursue.”

The Hueneme Port Regional featured teen students from local and state school districts, in addition to teams from China, the Netherlands, and Chinese Taipei. The teams will compete for awards and a chance to advance to the FIRST Championship — a global celebration of STEM education and innovation. This event is free and open to the public and spectators are welcome to watch the exciting matches, interact with the teams, and learn more about robotics and engineering.

“We are honored to host this amazing event at the Port of Hueneme where we can celebrate the power of collaboration, creativity, and innovation!” said Celina Zacarias, President of the Oxnard Harbor District. “Thank you to all the students showcasing their STEM skills and creative power to solve real-world challenges, we are thrilled to support your passion and potential. To the Teachers, thank you for instilling in our students the love of learning, inspiring hope, and igniting their imagination.”

During the opening ceremony, Mayor Pro Tem Martha McQueen-Leghon, of the City of Port Hueneme, addressed the large crowd of eager participants by extending a welcome on behalf of the city.

“I am so excited! This is my second time at the event,” McQueen-Leghon said. “It is our pleasure that we welcome you to the ‘Friendly City by the Sea.’ To those near and far, we thank you for being here and for visiting the Port of Hueneme — one of the city’s greatest partners.”

During the opening ceremony, the Port of Hueneme and the City of Port Hueneme presented a check donation to FIRST Robotics in the amount of \$5,000 from their Community Benefit Fund. The CBF was established in 2015 by the Port of Hueneme and the City of Port Hueneme to achieve the mutual goal of enriching the community through a spirit of collaboration. The Port and City crafted an agreement that states if the Port’s annual

revenue exceeds \$13 million, a total of \$100,000 in Port funds is allocated to the CBF. The Port and City then come together to vote on how to invest this funding in the community. Both the Port and City unanimously agreed to support the First Robotics competition.

“It is an honor to represent the Ventura County Board of Supervisors and the diverse and vibrant communities of District 5,” said Ventura County Supervisor, Vianey Lopez. “The Port of Hueneme is a hub for innovation and collaboration, with a strong network of educational institutions, government agencies, industry partners, and entrepreneurial organizations that foster creativity, growth, and solutions for the global challenges of today and tomorrow. I am especially excited to support the FIRST Robotics Competition at the Port of Hueneme, where we celebrate these achievements and potential of our young innovators and leaders in STEM.”

The robotics competition is made possible by the generous support of sponsors, such as the Gene Haas Foundation & Haas Automation, the leading manufacturer of CNC machine tools in the U.S., and the Community Benefit Fund, a joint initiative of the Port of Hueneme and the City of Port Hueneme to enrich the community through various projects and programs.

“NAVFAC/EXWC proudly supports the First Robotics Competition in the City of Port Hueneme alongside our host FATHOMWERX collaborative base,” Mark Campbell NAVFAC EXWC STEM Manager and STEM Federal Action Officer. “Year after year, our continuous support and team commitment showcase and continue to elevate the innovation and impact of this fantastic youth robotic organization. First, it brings life and excitement to what is often technologically imaginative for our youth. The dedication of these STEM students captivates and solidifies this year’s theme:

***“The Future is Yours to Create.”***



# 2024 Community Highlights



JAN 02

## Port of Hueneme Ends Year with Big Splash in the Community

5,000 lbs. of Masa for Tamales, toys, and bananas distributed to two local communities! For the past two weekends, the Port of Hueneme alongside local collaborative groups such as; Ser Humano partnered with Nyeland Promise and...

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JAN 18

## Celina Zacarias Elected as 1st Latina Woman to Serve as President of the Oxnard Harbor District, 2024-2025

Oxnard Harbor District Commissioners unanimously elect Celina Zacarias as Board President. On January 16, 2024, the Oxnard Harbor District elected Celina Zacarias as the President...

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APR 08

## 'Reel Guppy Outdoors' Expands Programming, Participation, and Partnerships with Dockside Learning Center at Fisherman's Wharf in the Channel Islands Harbor

The Port of Hueneme and City of Port Hueneme joined Reel Guppy founder, Kevin Brannon...

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MAY 15

## Community Benefit Fund Scholarship Program

The Port of Hueneme and City of Port Hueneme are launching the Community Benefit Fund Scholarship Program. This program was developed to provide financial assistance and support the academic efforts of high school seniors residing...

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JAN 22

## Port of Hueneme, Labor & Community Leaders Join Forces in "Powerwall" Response to Infrastructure Emergency

Unprecedented December storm damaged Shoreside Power System at the Port of Hueneme, causing more than \$30M in damages. The Port of Hueneme, the pioneering...

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FEB 29

## Hundreds of Runners Participated in a Heart Pumping Race to the Finish During the First-Ever Port/City 5K

Local runners enjoyed sun and fun at the inaugural "Run for Your Heart" 5K Race. In a strong spirit of partnership and heart for the community, the City of Port Hueneme, and the Port of Hueneme...

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JUN 26

## Port of Hueneme & City of Port Hueneme Hit a Home Run Supporting The Port Hueneme Little League

The Port Hueneme Little League celebrated its closing ceremony with a grand slam, marking the end of an exciting and successful season. More than 100 residents and their families joined...

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JUL 02

## Port of Hueneme Cares About Air Data Just a Click Away

The Port of Hueneme launched a new air quality monitoring website to provide visitors with near-real time information on air quality in South Oxnard. The website [portcaresaboutair.org](http://portcaresaboutair.org) provides current data, a map view, historical data, and a glossary...

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# 2024 Community Highlights cont.



JUL 09

## Spectacular 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Hueneme Beach "Show & Shine Car Show" Fundraiser Spotlights Cars and Community to Support Local Police Explorers Program

The 4th annual Hueneme Beach "Show and Shine Car Show," held on June 10, 2024, was a special event that brought together car enthusiasts...

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SEP 13

## All Aboard: Port of Hueneme's Security Training 'Sets Sail' for Safety

The Port of Hueneme operations team hosts a training exercise with 37 attendees from multiple agencies as part of an effort to enhance Port security operations. The Port of Hueneme's operations team joined by other Port staff...

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NOV 23

## Rain or Shine, The Port of Hueneme Continues "Committed to Community" with Turkey and Food Drive

The Port of Hueneme hosted a food drive at Southwinds Park alongside community partners Lujan Transportation Services, Lucha Inc., Southwinds Neighborhood Council, and others...

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NOV 23

## CAREGIVERS "Chari-Tee" Putt Putt Golf Tournament: A Celebration of Charity, Community, and Creativity

The rain didn't detract from the fun of the Annual Channel Islands Gulls "Chari-Tee" Putt Putt Golf Tournament was held in the scenic Silver Strand neighborhood for its fifteenth year in a row...

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Going bananas at Port of Hueneme!





# Going bananas at Port of Hueneme!

## 11th Annual Banana Fest Celebrated a Diverse Working Port with the Theme “Charging Forward to a Zero Emission Future”

Over 10,000 attendees went Bananas at the Port’s 11th Annual Banana Festival, celebrating a diverse working waterfront on September 28. The Festival offered attendees a unique opportunity to experience one of the most efficient and effective working waterfronts on the West Coast.

This year’s theme, “Charging Forward to a Zero Emission Future by 2030,” highlighted the Port’s commitment to a zero-emission future, showcasing its pivotal role in transitioning away from fossil fuels through the implementation of new and innovative equipment and infrastructure.

Attendees learned all about the Port’s pathway to green its operations. In the fall of 2021, the Oxnard Harbor District’s Board of Commissioners unanimously voted to pass a resolution to decarbonize port operations as part of their commitment to a zero-emission future. The passage of this resolution further propelled the Port’s Environmental Management Framework (EMF) to go above and beyond compliance with federal, state and local regulations, as well as implement greater pollution prevention measures. Through strategic grant funding and investment in zero-emission (ZE) equipment and infrastructure, the Port of Hueneme has been able to enhance its operations, improve air quality, and set a benchmark for sustainable port operations nationwide. The “Charging Forward” Festival theme highlights the Port’s commitment to the environment and to electrify.

“We are excited to be Charging Forward to 2030 with the goal of becoming the first U.S. Port to be emission free!” said Celina Zacarias, President of the Oxnard Harbor District Board of Harbor Commissioners. “We are grateful

for the incredible support of our community, labor, and business partners who will help make this vision a reality.”

Festival goers enjoyed a variety of banana-themed treats, live music, and family-friendly activities and were able to take land and waterside tours of the port complex to learn about its operations and see firsthand how The Port of Hueneme contributes to the local, regional, and global economy. “Charging Forward: attractions included electric car demonstrations by GLOVIS, the top banana sponsor, EV Advocates of Ventura County and VINFAST, as well visits to solar charging stations and views of electric cranes from the water tours.

As attendees explored the festival, they also were treated to free bananas from Chiquita, Del Monte Fresh and Dole, the Port’s largest banana importers and major sponsors of the event. Many fun facts were shared throughout the day highlighting that 5 billion bananas move through the Port annually, 400,000 vehicles transit the port of which 25% are electric, and the Port creates 25,000 trade related jobs. The family friendly event offered tours of rail cars, a vintage car show, and a kid zone full of activities.

“We were thrilled to see such a fantastic turnout at the 11th Annual Banana Festival,” said Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director of the Port of Hueneme. “This year’s theme, “Charging Forward to 2030,” reflects our dedication to environmental sustainability and our ongoing efforts to transition to zero-emission technologies. We were excited to share our progress and celebrate with our community.”

As an essential component of the nation’s supply chain and major contributor to the economic health of Ventura County and Southern California, the Port will continue to foster a thriving community and ensure that operations positively contribute to the environment and local economy building a greener and more sustainable future for generations to come. The Port of Hueneme thanks its festival sponsors, supporters, and all those who attended making this year’s event a resounding success. The Port remains committed to creating a sustainable future and looks forward to continuing its efforts in environmental stewardship alongside its community partners.

“The Banana Festival is a wonderful celebration of our community and the vital role the Port of Hueneme plays in our local economy. We are proud to host this event and showcase the many ways bananas and other imports contribute to our daily lives. We thank all of those who came to enjoy a day of family fun and learning” said Jess Ramirez, Harbor Commissioner for The Port of Hueneme.



**The Banana Festival is free to all its guests thanks to the festival’s sponsors:**

### Top Banana Sponsor

HYUNDAI GLOVIS

### Admiral Sponsors

- Chiquita
- Del Monte
- Dole
- Gold Coast Broadcasting
- The City of Port Hueneme

### Captain & Crew Sponsors

- Ports America
- E-Rental & Tents Inc.
- Dignity Health
- Pegasus Transit Inc.
- Kaiser Permanente
- Ventura Coast Brew Company
- Ventura County Coast
- Brusco Tug & Barge
- Explore Channel Islands Expeditions
- Hook’s SportFishing
- The Alynetwork
- Townsend Public Affairs
- 3WU Print
- Ventura County Transportation Commission
- Grocery Outlet bargain market
- Medallion Protective Services
- Ventura County Credit Union
- StarLine Tours
- Anacapa Fresh Logistic
- #setlife
- Gold Coast Health Plan

### Friend of the Port Sponsors

- Hatch
- Visit Oxnard
- Productions KND
- Southern California Association of Governments
- Selfie Booth 805



# Port of Hueneme Delegation On-the-Move During Trade Mission to South Korea and Japan

## A focus on Green Corridors and Economic Prosperity

What is a more fitting way to usher in World Trade Week in Southern California than by having the Port of Hueneme complete a series of collaborative discussions, strategic meetings, and site visits during a whirlwind 10-day economic and green corridor trade mission to South Korea and Japan. Commissioners of the Oxnard Harbor District and senior Port of Hueneme leadership visited these two countries to reinforce, reinvigorate, and reimagine trade with key industry leaders and policymakers alike and align on innovation initiatives to green shipping lanes and operations.

“I was especially honored to be a part of this historic trade mission to Japan and South Korea, it is important for the Port of Hueneme to be a bridge to foster robust relationships with two of our most esteemed trading partners,” said Celina Zacarias, President of the Oxnard Harbor District.

From Seoul to Pyeongtaek, Ulsan to Busan, and Tokyo to Yokohama, the Port’s trade mission was focused on helping existing customers increase their business through the Port of Hueneme by introducing them to the Port’s development goals which seek to further catalyze business with the Port of Hueneme and honor community development and environmental goals as set forth in its strategic plan. The Port of Hueneme and its trading partners embraced cooperation and collaboration regarding environmentally sustainable port development initiatives and automotive logistics with the aim of establishing Green Automotive Shipping Corridors.

The countries of Japan and South Korea are recognized as two of the brightest beacons of innovation, green initiatives and economic prowess, and their partnership with the Port has been instrumental in facilitating

a thriving exchange of goods, ideas, environmental stewardship, and culture.

California State Treasurer Fiona Ma was a member of the Port delegation. Port of Hueneme commissioners and leadership staff, as well as Treasurer Ma, presented a proclamation to Hyundai Glovis in recognition of the company’s commitment of working towards innovation, technology, and environmental sustainability goals. Following this gesture of gratitude, the Port of Hueneme signed a green automotive shipping corridor Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on April 23rd with Wallenius Wilhelmsen Pyeongtaek International Ro-Ro Terminal — a WWL automotive terminal located in the Port of Pyeongtaek, South Korea.

“South Korea ranks as California’s fifth largest export partner and the top trading partner with the Port of Hueneme which is vital for Ventura County,” said California State Treasurer, Fiona Ma. “Hyundai Glovis is a leading logistics firm that enhances global connectivity. Hyundai Motor Company, the second largest in electric vehicle sales, is ramping up production to support California’s ambitious climate targets.”

California Governor Gavin Newsom set an ambitious goal requiring all new light passenger vehicles purchased by 2035 to be zero emission. Twenty-three percent of auto imports that come through the Port of Hueneme are electric vehicles. Both Hyundai and Kia’s commitment to the production of these vehicles is key to meeting that goal. The major counterpart ports where these vehicles are loaded include: Pyeongtaek and Ulsan in South Korea. For its part, many Subaru vehicles discharged at the Port of Hueneme originate in Kawasaki and Yokohama in Japan.

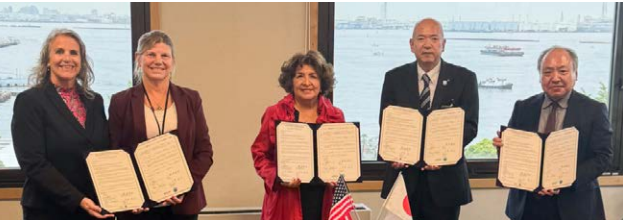


“The partnerships we have with Japan and South Korea will help mutually grow commercial relationships with existing port clients and allow for a dynamic effort to make a difference around the globe with green shipping and development practices,” said Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director for the Port of Hueneme.

While in Yokohama Japan, members of the Port of Hueneme delegation and the Port of Yokohama celebrated their long-standing partnership by establishing a Memorandum of Understanding to create a Green Automotive Shipping Corridor between both ports. This MOU will help promote cooperation and collaboration regarding environmentally sustainable port development initiatives and automotive logistics at both ports with the aim of transitioning to a zero-emission future. This transition will require more than changing equipment and the energy which makes it move. It will require collaboration across the maritime industry from cargo owners, freight forwarders, ports and carriers to vehicle and engine manufacturers, energy producers, and policy makers alike.

The MOU is a major step to improve the understanding of how these two ports can work together towards powering the world’s fifth largest economy through the California spirit of innovation, equity, and leadership.

The Port of Hueneme/Yokohama MOU is the first green automotive shipping corridor MOU signed by a US port authority and builds upon on a green shipping corridor initiative announced by the United States and South Korea at COP27, as well as a Letter of Intent to Support Port Decarbonization and the Development of Green Shipping Corridors between the State of California and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Japan. The Port of Hueneme is now the first US port authority to sign green automotive shipping corridor agreements with ports and terminals in both Japan and South Korea, whose markets represent a majority of the transpacific automobile trade between the three nations.





# Navigating the Global Future: Port of Hueneme Spotlights Current Trade and AI Innovations during World Trade Week

## Department of Commerce, Consuls, Industry, and Businesses Participate in Trade-Focused Event

World Trade Week was established in 1935 by President Roosevelt and was created to recognize the importance and benefits of global trade to the local and national economy. This year, the Port of Hueneme welcomed trade partners from around the world with a focus on “Supply Chain and AI” that included Department of Commerce officials and local elected officials as well as business leaders and consuls in attendance to share information focused on the current state of the supply chain, the economy, and artificial intelligence.

The Port’s 11th annual World Trade Week event was held on May 2, 2024 at the FATHOMWERX lab located at the Port of Hueneme and welcomed almost 100 people from around the globe with an interest and involvement in international trade.

Drew Rodriguez, Public & Community Relations Senior Representative at the Port of Hueneme, was this year’s emcee. Oxnard Harbor District President, Celina Zacarias, welcomed attendees by stating that international trade is important to the Port of Hueneme and to the region.



*“It is my distinct honor to be here to celebrate World Trade Week and its connection to us all here in Ventura County,”*

President Zaracias said. “We are gathered here at the Port of Hueneme—the birthplace of the FATHOMWERX technology lab—to continue to explore the world trade and supply chain landscape and its interconnection to technology and its potential for the Ventura County region.”

Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director, provided an overview of port operations, the current state of the supply chain, an update on the Port’s international trade partners, and the economic impact the Port has on the region.



“Happy World Trade Day!” Decas declared before jumping into her presentation about the Port. “We just came back from a trade mission and had quite an amazing experience in both South Korea and Japan,” she said. “We signed two MOUs (memorandum of understanding) and these MOUs really homed in not only on economic development, customer relations, building business, but importantly, about building green corridors and sustainability and moving towards a footprint of decarbonization.”

Trade updates from the Port’s global partners from the countries of Mexico, Lithuania, Hong Kong, and the United Kingdom shared key information about how their country’s traditional exports and emerging markets are fostering growth and investment opportunities.

Ambassador Ricardo Santana, Consulado de Mexico en Oxnard, said: “Our ongoing trade partnership continues to grow. For us, the Port is very important because of its location—strategically situated on the Central Coast of California for its infrastructure with the modern docks, storage facilities, and railway access. In 2022, bilateral trade between Mexico and California amounted to \$73.7 billion dollars.”

Mantas Zamzickas, Commercial Attaché of Lithuania to the USA, Consulate General of Lithuania in Los Angeles said: “The Port of Klaipeda is the biggest in Lithuania and started a collaboration with the Port of Hueneme just last year. Hopefully, in upcoming years, the (trade) numbers will increase.”

Sean Kagan, Senior Trade Policy Advisor, British Consulate-General Los Angeles, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office said: “The U.S. is the U.K.’s largest

export market for goods and services, so it is a really important trade relationship for the United Kingdom. U.S./U.K. bilateral invest is worth over \$1.5 trillion—supporting more than 2.7 million jobs. It’s great to be at a port where you can see that happening. You can see the goods coming in.”

Betty Young, Business Development Officer, Hong Kong Trade Development Council said: “We are here to connect international companies to meet many of the rising opportunities in this market and in growing sectors. Hong Kong can facilitate new opportunities in innovation and technology, medical and healthcare, sustainability, and creative.”



A special pre-recorded welcome message of Grant T. Harris, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Industry & Analysis, was shared with attendees: “Enhancing supply chain resiliency is central to our work at the Department of Commerce,” he said. “Together, with industry partners like the Port of Hueneme, we are working to address and get ahead of supply chain issues facing American businesses. By building stronger and more resilient supply chains, we will strengthen U.S. economic competitiveness, protect our national security, and support good paying jobs in communities across the country.”

This year’s keynote speaker was Caroline Kaufman, Industries Team Lead in the Office of Supply Chain Services and the International Trade Administration which is a bureau of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

“The Department recognizes the critical role that maritime services and ports such as the Port of Hueneme play in ensuring strong supply chains and the smooth movement



of goods throughout the United States and around the world,” Kaufman said. “The Department of Commerce has one overarching goal: That goal is to improve America’s economic competitiveness. Ports are a critical piece to the resiliency equation.”

After a lunch break, Richard Swanson, a Senior Advisor for the Office of the Regional Director – Pacific South Network, U.S. & Foreign Commercial Service, International Trade Administration of the U.S. Department of Commerce and Maryanne Burke, Director of the U.S. Commercial Service for the U.S. Export Assistance Center office located at the Port of Hueneme provided a regional update, discussed the District Export Council of Southern California, and shared foreign direct investment information.



A roundtable discussion moderated by Simona Racek, Trade Specialist at EDC SBDC & Co-CEO of TradeZiris focused on the role of AI in international trade.

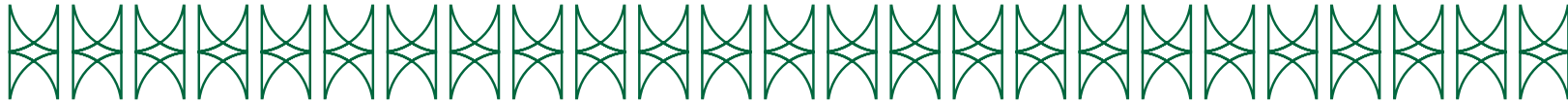
“It is a true pleasure to be here and to be joined by three top exports in our Southern California community,” Racek said. “What our speakers have in common is that they are already transforming trade operations by applying AI to international trade.”

The panel included Todd Smith, Founder & CEO of KYG Trade; Vincent Iacopella, EVP Growth & Strategy of Alba Wheels Up International; and Ray Bowman, Director of the Economic Development Collaborative Small Business Development Center.

To close the event, the Oxnard Harbor District Board of Commissioners presented special awards focused on companies who export goods through the Port of Hueneme.

The Auto Export Achievement was presented to Toyota Motor North America by Celina Zacarias, President of the Oxnard Harbor District, the Container Export Achievement was awarded to Allied Potato by Oxnard Harbor Commissioner, Maryanne Rooney, and the EDC World Trade Advocacy Award was awarded to Moorpark College by the Economic Development Center of Ventura County.

A Certificate of Appreciation from the U.S. Commercial Service was awarded to the Port of Hueneme by Maryanne Burke, Director of the U.S. Commercial Service U.S. Export Assistance Center office at the Port of Hueneme and Richard Swanson, Senior Advisor for the Office of the Regional Director, Pacific South Network, U.S. Commercial Service.



# Port of Hueneme, Making History Announcing Goal of Zero Emissions by

20  
30

***At its World Oceans Day event on June 11, the Port of Hueneme announced its aim to make operations zero emissions by 2030.***

Becoming zero emissions with grid power requires a huge investment in electrical charging infrastructure and equipment and will cost tens of millions of dollars. However, the Port is well on its way having invested tens of millions to date with another \$100+ million in investments and grants in queue to continue this transition away from fossil fuels. The Port has already made significant progress in reducing emissions by using low and zero emissions vehicles and equipment over the years, and by working with Port partners to use better, cleaner technology.

“The Port of Hueneme’s announcement of our zero-emission blueprint initiative marks a critical step in our commitment to environmental sustainability and climate action,” said Celina Zacarias, President of the Oxnard Harbor District Board of Harbor Commissioners.

“I’d like to thank the California Energy Commission for seeing the Port of Hueneme as a leader in the Port decarbonization space and providing critical funding to bring our communities vision of a zero-emission port one step closer to reality! This ambitious goal to be zero emission by 2030 is only possible with the incredible support of our strong community, labor, and business partners throughout Ventura County. We look forward to working together on this journey to becoming the first fully zero emission and greenest port in the United States!”

The intent is to have the Port’s cranes all plugging in, vessels be zero emission at berth through shoreside power and emission control systems, and transition handling equipment and port vehicles to zero emission by 2030. The Port will partner closely with the trucking

community on goals around transition away from fossil fuels and the ocean carrier industry on the movement to a green, decarbonized bunker fuels, but this is separate effort from the Port’s zero emission blueprint.

“We’re thrilled to move forward in this endeavor and to work hand and hand with our trades and with our community to come up with zero emission solutions and to hopefully be the first Port in the U.S.A. to be a zero emission port because of the size and scale of who we are,” said Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director, for the Port of Hueneme.

“We have been working on the Blueprint since 2021,” said Giles Pettifor, Port Environmental Manager. “Now that we have funding and support from the state, our commercial partners, and we can make our goal of ZE a reality and years ahead of State of California ZE goals.”

Beginning in 2021, the Port conducted a two-year zero emissions energy study to decide which clean fuels could power the Port in the future thanks to funding from the California Energy Commission (CEC). The Port looked at two future clean fuels, electrical grid power and hydrogen powered fuel cells. The study looked in detail at all the equipment on Port, and concluded electrical grid power is the best future clean fuel to power the Port toward a zero emission future.

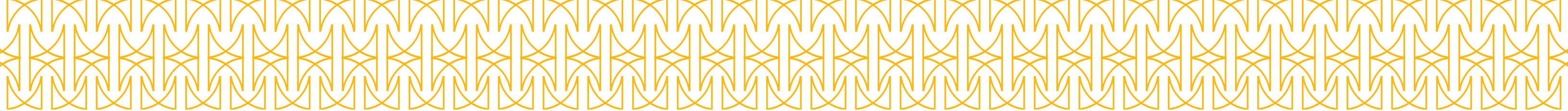
In 2022, the Port received federal funding to develop a Climate Action and Adaptation Plan under the broader climate, energy and air quality program known as Port of Hueneme, Reducing Emissions, Supporting Health (PHRESH). This program reflects the Port’s ongoing commitment to reducing emissions and supporting public health and improving air quality.

This major announcement is realistic based on current projections but is dependent on significant external funding and equipment availability and will not include the vessels sailing the ocean or drayage trucking.

The Blueprint to ZE announcement kicked off the Port’s World Oceans Day celebration “Catalyze Action for Our Ocean & Climate” on June 11 at the Channel Islands Maritime Museum in Oxnard. The event was an opportunity for the Port of Hueneme, maritime industry companies, environmentalists and community organizations to gather to discuss partnerships focused on the sustainability of the world’s oceans.

The event included a keynote panel of organizations that align with the Port’s mission of growing a blue economy. The Blue Whales Blue Skies Award Ceremony also recognized Port for customers including K Line America Inc, Maersk, Hyundai Glovis, Wallenius Wilhelmsen, NYK Line, Evergreen, CMA CGM, Hapag-Lloyd, CSL Americas slowing ships and saving whales. Additionally, the Friend of the Port Award Ceremony thanked Port partners including Reel Guppy Outdoors, MERITO Foundation, and Coastal Keepers for making a difference.





## ***\$3.935 Million State Grant is a 'Game Changer' for Port of Hueneme as Governor Ramps Up California Port Data Partnership Program***

In July, the Governor's Office of Business and Economic Development (GO-Biz) announced a \$3.935 million award to help the Port of Hueneme support and enhance the movement of goods across the state of California and throughout the supply chain. This historic investment, known as the California Port Data Partnership, will revolutionize direct cloud-based data management and sharing amongst California's five containerized ports to accelerate climate adaptation and resiliency, workforce development, zero-emission vehicle deployment, and increased grid support and reliability. As the nation's preeminent global goods movement gateway, California ports are responsible for handling forty percent of all containerized imports and thirty percent of all containerized exports in the United States.

"California's ports are critical to the stability of our national and global supply chains, as well as the health of our worldwide economy," said GO-Biz Director and Senior Advisor to Governor Gavin Newsom, Dee Dee Myers. "These historic, first-of-their-kind awards will allow us to use data to improve the functionality of our supply chain, and we look forward to working with our ports to further the momentum that these projects will generate across the state."

This one-time state investment of \$30 million is a significant milestone funded under the Governor's Budget Act of 2022. The funding aims to bolster data interoperability, reduce emissions, and align the world's fifth largest economy with federal objectives through the California spirit of innovation, equity, and leadership.

"The California Port Data Partnership will foster collaboration among ports, government agencies, and industry stakeholders," said Aaron Valance, Information Technology Service Manager at the Port of Hueneme. "Together we will drive innovation and enhance data interoperability by streamlining operations across California's ports to create a more resilient and sustainable supply chain."

The Port of Hueneme is among California's five containerized ports (San Diego, Los Angeles, Long Beach, and Oakland) to receive this critical investment. Development of direct cloud-based data systems amongst California's containerized ports will further support and accelerate emerging data aggregation and analysis that will undoubtedly support freight and supply chain efficiency.

Port of Hueneme Board President, Celina Zacarias, added: "Our commitment to data-driven solutions will enhance our competitiveness and benefit the entire California economy. This grant is a testament to our dedication to data driven excellence."



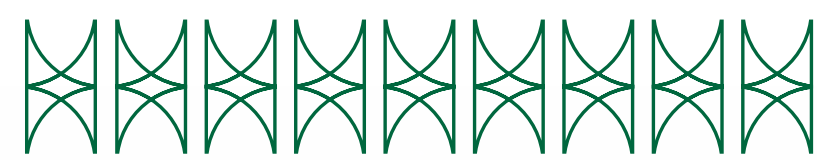
As the only deep-water seaport between Los Angeles and San Francisco, the Port is recognized as one of the most efficient and effective trade gateways on the West Coast and understands the importance of direct collaboration with its California port partners.

The advancement of data sharing through cloud-based systems is not only critical to enhancing goods movement efficiency but imperative to growing the economic competitiveness of California's goods movement sector by increasing system capacity for ocean carriers, importers and exporters, truckers and rail operators, longshoreman and warehouse workers, terminal operators, and government agencies.

The transition to a zero-emission future is more than a matter of changing equipment and the energy which makes it move. This transition requires interoperability

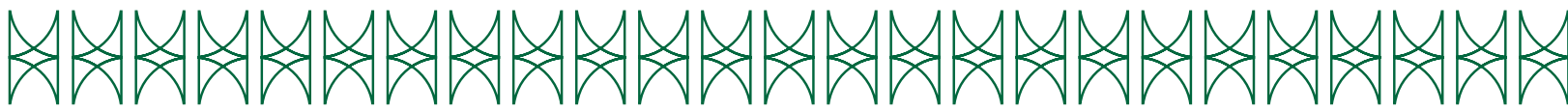
among all California ports computerized and cloud-based data systems to expeditiously and securely share information across port users, relevant transportation providers, and other port or public sector cloud-based cargo data systems to support operational improvement, efficiency, and emissions reductions.

"This grant is a game-changer for our port and the entire state of California," said Kristin Decas, CEO and Port Director of the Port of Hueneme. "By enhancing data connectivity, we can optimize operations, reduce environmental impact, and strengthen our position as a vital gateway for global trade."



# Port of Hueneme Partners with STAX Engineering “Breaking Waves” with Emissions Capture and Control Project

On September 28, the Port of Hueneme, a vital gateway for international trade and a leader in environmental stewardship, announced its groundbreaking collaboration with STAX Engineering, a leader in maritime emissions capture and control. Together, they are revolutionizing emissions reduction in the maritime industry through the deployment of the cutting-edge emissions capture and control system. The system will consist of mobile floating barges that can place filters on ocean-going vessel stacks and filter out harmful emissions like particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen. This new effort is a direct response to mitigate impacts due to the damage incurred to Port’s Shoreside Power system last December during the major storm that flooded Port Hueneme.



## *Mobile Emissions Capture and Control System: A Game-Changer for Clean Air*

The first-of-its-kind system developed by STAX Engineering represents a significant leap forward in tackling air pollution from ships while at berth. Here’s how it works:

1. **Capturing Emissions:** STAX’s system is ingeniously designed to envelop a vessel’s smokestack, capturing particulate matter (PM) and oxides of nitrogen (NOx) emissions directly at the source.
2. **Efficiency and Cost-Effectiveness:** Unlike traditional shore power solutions, the STAX system doesn’t require expensive modifications to vessels. It efficiently captures pollutants without disrupting vessel operations, making it a cost-effective choice for both shipowners and port authorities.
3. **Renewable Energy:** The barge is powered by renewable diesel, making it cleaner than the electric grid. Its cleaned exhaust stream meets the health-protective standards required by CARB. This aligns perfectly with the Port of Hueneme’s commitment to sustainability.

## *Building on the Port of Hueneme’s Commitment to Environmental Leadership*

As a Green Marine-certified port, the Port of Hueneme has consistently prioritized environmental responsibility. The collaboration with STAX Engineering underscores their dedication to cleaner air, healthier communities, and a more sustainable future.

Celina Zacarias, Board President for the Oxnard Harbor District said: “We must continue to move forward towards our goal of becoming a zero emissions Port. The storm damage has created an opportunity to continue showing how resilient our Port can really be. We are putting the community first through this type of collaboration, and we will continue to pursue these types of partnerships so that our neighbors can rest assured that their Port is doing everything in its power to reduce its emissions and continue moving forward toward the goal!”

“We’re thrilled to partner with STAX Engineering on this transformative project. The emissions capture and control

system exemplifies our commitment to innovation and environmental stewardship, which is in our Port DNA, and highlights the flexibility of the Port’s response to finding new solutions in the maritime industry.” said Kristin Decas, CEO and Port Director, Port of Hueneme.

“One of the most important aspects of STAX technology is that it breaks fleet operator dependence on the local grid,” said STAX Engineering CEO, Mike Walker. “Shore power isn’t always available due to factors like major storms, limited outlet access, and vessel incompatibility. Our solution addresses these challenges, providing an easy, cost-effective, and environmentally friendly solution that solves the at-berth regulation requirements for ports like the Port of Hueneme. We are grateful for their partnership and excited about the positive impact we will achieve together.”

## *Two Ventura County Ports Drive Innovative Solution to Improve Trade*

Following the exciting announcement of a \$16 million sub-award from the California State Transportation Agency’s Port and Freight Infrastructure Program (PFIP) grant, the Ventura Port District and the Port of Hueneme are set to commence the next phase of the Commercial Fish Landing Modernization Project.

The PFIP grant, awarded to the Port of Hueneme last year for its PACED (Port Action, Climate, and Environmental) Program, is part of the \$1.2 billion one-time funding initiative by the California State Legislature and is targeted for projects that enhance the capacity, safety, efficiency, and resilience of goods movement through California’s maritime ports, while also focusing on reducing greenhouse gas emissions and the impact on adjacent communities.

“These funds are coming from the State of California, and I would be remiss for not thanking CalSTA for including this project as one of the projects being funded by the Port and Freight Infrastructure Program,” said Ventura Port District General Manager, Brian D. Pendleton. “I would like to thank the Port of Hueneme for providing the opportunity to pursue this partnership grant for these synergies between our agencies.”

While Ventura Harbor does not directly move goods, the relocation of the Port of Hueneme’s commercial fishing facilities to Ventura Harbor will enhance cargo efficiency at the Port of Hueneme.

# Excellence in Financial Reporting Earns Port Prestigious Recognition for 14<sup>th</sup> Consecutive Year

The Board of Port Commissioners for the Port of Hueneme approved the agreement on Monday, July 15, 2024, followed by the Ventura Port District's Board's approval on Wednesday, July 19, 2024. This partnership exemplifies a shared vision for enhancing the economic vitality and infrastructure of Ventura County's waterfront.

"The Port of Hueneme expresses its deepest appreciation to the Ventura Port District, CalSTA, and all parties involved in securing this pivotal grant," said Celina Zacarias, President of the Oxnard Harbor District. "We are poised to embark on a transformative journey by improving goods movement at the Port of Hueneme and enhancing Ventura Harbor's role as a vital component of California's maritime industry."

With the sub-award agreement approved, the next steps involve the Ventura Port District and the Port of Hueneme working closely to procure environmental review and engineering design services.

"I would like to express my thanks to the team for pulling this project together," said Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director for the Port of Hueneme. "Both agencies fully embraced this vision for a project that was mutually beneficial."

In January 2023, the Oxnard Harbor District (which owns the Port of Hueneme) extended an invitation to the Ventura Port District to join as a sub-applicant

in the PFIP grant application for the relocation of the Commercial Fish Landing Modernization Project to fund the modernization of Ventura Harbor's commercial fish offloading facilities. This project is pivotal in improving cargo efficiency at the Port of Hueneme by relocating its commercial fishing activities to Ventura Harbor and deconflicting the backland cargo area of the Port of Hueneme. At the same time, the grant will fund the development of a brand-new facility, designed to improve and increase the squid landing capacity including absorbing the fish offloading activities transitioning from the Port of Hueneme, which will keep commerce and jobs in the region. The project underscores both agencies' commitment to ensuring Ventura County remains a competitive and thriving hub for commercial fishing and increased cargo commerce.

Mike Blumenberg, Ventura Port District Chair of the Board, said it is important to include the Commercial Fish Landing Modernization Project as part of the District's upcoming public workshop on September 14 which will include a focus on business continuity and ensuring the project is completed within the timeframe of the grant.

"I am thrilled that the Port of Hueneme reached out to us and give us the opportunity to work together," Blumenberg said. "Let's preserve our local stakeholders – the fishing industry – and preserve our local businesses and coordinate to move forward."

Founded in 1906, The Government Finance Officers Association (GFOA) represents public finance officials all throughout the United States and Canada who aim to advance excellence in public finance. For the fourteenth consecutive year, the Port of Hueneme was selected to receive the GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting—the highest form of recognition in the area of governmental accounting and financial reporting and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management.

"It is an honor to receive this recognition from the GFOA for the 14th consecutive year," said Austin Yang, Chief Finance & Administration Officer of The Port of Hueneme. "This award reflects our organizations commitment to transparency and excellence in financial reporting. It is a true testament to the hard work and dedication of the entire team here at the port."

With great pride, The Port submitted its Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR) to the GFOA to be evaluated for the organizations fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. An impartial panel of the GFOA reviewed The

Port's ACFR and scored it against the highest standards of their program. Not only had The Port achieved excellence in their reporting, the organization was elated to find that it had also conveyed a "spirit of full disclosure" in clearly communicating its financial story to motivate readers to take the time and review the report in full.

"Our financial goals are designed to ensure that the Port of Hueneme remains a vital economic engine for our region," said Celina Zacarias, President of the Board of Harbor Commissioners for The Port of Hueneme. "By enhancing our revenue streams, investing in sustainable infrastructure, and engaging with our community, we aim to create a resilient and prosperous future. These goals reflect our commitment to not only financial excellence but also to the well-being of our stakeholders and community members alike."

Recognition from the GFOA is strong indication of the Port's ability to manage its finances responsibly through sound decision-making and resource allocation that benefit the local economy as well as surrounding communities.







# Port of Hueneme Unites with SeaCube and Community Partners to Support Naval Base Ventura County's USDA Fleet Reserve Program

## *New Refrigerated Container Secured to Help Military Families Access Vital Food Resources.*

In a powerful display of community solidarity, the Port of Hueneme, alongside SeaCube Containers and several key partners, came together in September to support the Naval Base Ventura County (NBVC) USDA Fleet Reserve Program, which provides access to critical food resources for military families and veterans for over 40 years. Originally founded in the back of a pickup truck behind the Naval Base Chapel, the program has grown significantly since 1984, providing essential food supplies to active-duty service members, their families, and veterans throughout Ventura County.

The program, which distributes 25,000 pounds of fresh, frozen, and liquid foods each month to over 350 families and 2,500 individuals, faced a severe setback when its two refrigerated containers, both over 20 years old, were rendered unusable in December 2023 and April 2024. With refrigeration compromised, the NBVC Fleet Reserve Program was limited to distributing dry and some fresh goods to the military community, affecting hundreds of families in need. In response, representatives from the NBVC Fleet Reserve Program reached out to local community leaders for support.

The Port of Hueneme answered the call, rallying support from the local community and business partners including Navy League Channel Islands Council, Eskesen Advisory, and SeaCube Containers. Together, these organizations joined forces to ensure that the Fleet Reserve Program could continue its mission to serve military families on the local Navy Base Ventura County.

Recognizing the high cost of purchasing a new refrigerated unit, the Port's Chief Commercial Officer, Stacy Lange, contacted business partners in hopes of finding a lower-cost solution. Bill Duggan from Eskesen Advisory, a premier consulting firm for refrigerated freight, connected the Port with SeaCube Containers who generously donated a brand-new refrigerated container, providing immediate relief for the program. "SeaCube Containers is honored to support the Naval Base Ventura County USDA Fleet Reserve Program. We are proud of our US Navy and our veterans and deeply respect their contributions. No service member, whether active-duty or retired, should ever have to worry about food security. We make this donation with heartfelt gratitude. Go Navy!" said Bob Sappio, CEO SeaCube Containers.

"The leadership at SeaCube, from the CEO Bob Sappio to his team took action to deliver this needed container and help out the families in the Oxnard area." said Bill Duggan.

"We are proud to be part of a community that recognizes the importance of supporting our military families," said Port of Hueneme Board President, Celina Zacarias "The NBVC USDA Fleet Reserve Food Program has been a lifeline for service members and veterans for decades, and we are committed to ensuring that it continues to thrive. This partnership is a reflection of our deep gratitude for the sacrifices made by these families, and we are honored to contribute to this vital cause."

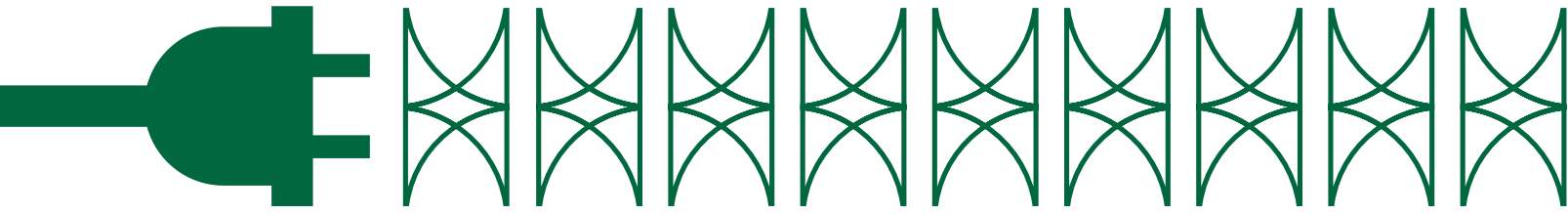


With the donation of the new refrigerated container, the NBVC Fleet Reserve Food Program will once again be able to provide 25,000 pounds of food each month to hundreds of families and individuals, ensuring access to fresh, frozen, and liquid foods for Ventura County's military community. "We are extremely grateful for the efforts and generosity of the Port of Hueneme, SeaCube, and local community partners that give back to the community," said Holly Walaszek, Food Pantry Coordinator, NBVC Fleet Reserve Program. The Port of Hueneme and its partners are proud to contribute to a cause that upholds the values of service, sacrifice, and community.



# Port of Hueneme “Goes Electric!” Over \$42 Million EPA Clean Ports Grant Award

## *Charging Forward, One More Step Toward Zero Emissions*



In October, the Port of Hueneme received an impressive \$42,287,893 grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), critical funding for the Port’s goal of zero emissions by 2030. On October 29, 2024, the EPA announced its intent to award \$3 billion to help the nation’s ports through the agency’s Clean Ports Program. This new grant funding initiative builds on the EPA’s Ports Initiative to bolster the nation’s ports.

“Our nation’s ports are critical to creating opportunity here in America, offering good-paying jobs, moving goods, and powering our economy,” said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. “Today’s historic \$3 billion investment builds on President Biden’s vision of growing our economy while ensuring America leads in globally competitive solutions of the future. Delivering cleaner technologies and resources to U.S. ports will slash harmful air and climate pollution while protecting people who work in and live nearby ports communities.”

The Port of Hueneme was selected among other agencies and ports to receive a grant award of over \$42 million for its PHRESH (Port of Hueneme Reducing Emissions, Supporting Health) Project to accelerate the Port’s zero-emission transformation. This project consists of two components: PHRESH START (Sustainable, Thoughtful and Resilient Transformation)—under the Zero-Emission Technology Deployment Competition and PHRESH AIR (Accelerating Implementation and Results)—under the Climate and Air Quality Planning Competition.

“This announcement by the EPA is exciting news for the Port of Hueneme,” said Celina Zacarias, President of the Oxnard Harbor District/Port of Hueneme. “We now have the funding to accelerate the Board of Harbor Commissioner’s 2019 adopted resolution to decarbonization, our goal is now our reality.”

The Port’s Clean Port project accelerates the deployment of zero emission port handling equipment and creates incentives for the trucking community to transition to electric trucks. Importantly the funding promises to help build a strong workforce with high paying jobs in green technology while reducing emissions and community impacts.

*“This historic \$42 million EPA grant sets the pace for the Port to lead the way as the nation’s first fully zero emission port for cargo handling equipment and enables us to enhance the quality of life for our adjacent communities with state-of-the-art clean operations,”*

said Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director of the Port of Hueneme. “We are grateful for the support of Senator Padilla, Senator Butler, Congresswoman Brownley, local leaders and all of our customer, ILWU, trades, non-profit, and community partners to help the Port secure this funding and achieve these ambitious goals.”

“California’s ports move the goods that power our economy. This investment in the Port of Hueneme is a major step forward in accelerating the zero-emission infrastructure transition,” said Senator Padilla. “With over \$40 million in Inflation Reduction Act funding headed to the Port’s PHRESH project, we’re decarbonizing our supply chain to produce cleaner air and protect public health in neighboring communities.”

Congresswoman Julia Brownley (CA-26) played a pivotal role in advocating for the Port’s inclusion in the Clean Ports Program. Additionally, she secured \$375,000 in funding to support the PHRESH Project.

“Over the past year, I have worked closely with the Port of Hueneme to secure over \$42 million in federal funding to expand the Port’s innovative sustainability efforts,” said Congresswoman Brownley. “This historic investment will accelerate the Port’s zero-emission transformation and is a testament to its bold environmental initiatives. As an essential economic driver for Ventura County, the Port’s commitment to a cleaner future will yield substantial benefits for the community, including improved air quality, public health, job creation, and workforce development.”

The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 provides the EPA with unprecedented levels of funding for Ports to launch zero-emission equipment and technology as well as assist U.S. ports in developing climate action plans to reduce air pollutants. The EPA awarded \$41,076,293 to the Port’s PHRESH Start initiative that will convert 95% of the Port’s handling equipment to zero emission technology and create an incentive for zero emission trucking. Another \$1,211,600 was awarded by the EPA to support the Port’s PHRESH Air program and will be used to develop a resiliency plan for extreme weather as part of the Port’s Clean Air Action Plan, increasingly important in the recent aftermath of the December 21, 2023, atmospheric river event that caused massive destruction throughout the community and at the Port.

“Funding on this scale will allow the Port to make huge progress towards our goal of zero emissions port operations by 2030. Not only will these resources fund new zero emissions equipment, but critically it also funds charging infrastructure, literally the plugs and wires of electrification, which will be essential for long term decarbonization,” said Giles Pettifor, the Port’s Director of Environment and Sustainability.

Launched in February 2024, the Clean Ports Program focuses on reducing diesel pollution and improving air quality in near-port communities. It also emphasizes meaningful community engagement and emissions reduction planning as standard practices for the port industry.

“As we continue incorporating equity into environmental and maritime operations, we must continue to enhance existing initiatives and build upon them. This grant is an example of a vision that began with an environmental framework 12 years ago. Through those efforts a focus on delivering intentional results such as community-based air quality monitoring and meaningful community engagement. Today, the Port achieves a monumental milestone stemming directly from the framework; a clear

pathway toward a decarbonized future, a just transition for workers, our neighbors and frontline communities.” said Miguel Rodriguez, Community Relations and Workforce Development Director for the Port of Hueneme.

Others also joined in on the celebration as it became official and expressed their congratulations.

“Congratulations to the Port of Hueneme on receiving the \$42 million EPA Clean Ports grant, a significant investment in a sustainable future. This award is a testament to the Port’s leadership and commitment to reducing emissions, improving air quality, and fostering environmental stewardship. We applaud the Port of Hueneme for setting a new benchmark in clean, green port operations that will benefit our community and generations to come.” said Misty Perez, Mayor of the City of Port Hueneme.

“Thank you to the EPA and to Congresswoman Brownley for helping secure this funding that will be critical to meet our zero-emissions targets for ports and trucking and advance social and environmental equity. We are happy to see this historic investment in cleaner air that will save lives in our communities around the Port of Hueneme.” said Lucas Zucker, Co-Executive Director of Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE).

Additionally, the Southwinds Neighborhood Council Chairwoman Sofia E. Vega commented on the successful grant application:

“From school cafeteria listening sessions to visible community-based air quality monitors, we have seen what an agency [The Port] that truly cares can do for its constituents. The Port has demonstrated a commitment to enhancing its relationship with the community by actively listening to previous concerns about air quality and taking meaningful steps to secure resources for improving public health. We applaud the Port for this historic achievement, and it is exciting to see that our neighborhood council has been a partner in these efforts toward a healthier community”

In concert with this significant funding the Port is working to develop a comprehensive climate action and clean air plan, which will include emission reduction strategies and will codify the Port’s emission reduction goals of 100% zero-emission terminal equipment by 2030, 100% of short-haul/drillage trucking by 2035, and 100% long-haul trucking by 2045.

# A Dynamic Look at Growth, Innovation, and the Future Shared at the 2024 “State of the Port”

## West Ventura County Business Alliance Hosts Annual Port Update

The Residence Inn by Marriott in Oxnard was the location of a packed room consisting of elected officials, port customers, labor union representatives, businesses, and community groups eager to listen to an update presented by the Port of Hueneme and hosted by the West Ventura County Business Alliance. Celina Zacarias, President of the Oxnard Harbor District Board of Commissioners, welcomed attendees to the “State of the Port” presentation with an inspirational story about her childhood in Oxnard and thanked the community for its support of the port.

“The Port of Hueneme is the heartbeat of our local economy by driving trade, creating jobs, and connecting our communities to vital opportunities,” President Zacarias said. “The Port continues to ‘keep cargo moving’ which helps our region thrive.”

Kristin Decas, CEO & Port Director, kicked off the presentation by providing a “Port 101” that included impressive milestones,

fun facts, and an interactive quiz about the port that kept attendees engaged while being informed.

“The Port of Hueneme is charging forward on its journey towards becoming a zero-emission port by 2030,” Decas said. “Sustainability and innovation are keys to our economic growth and environmental stewardship.”

The Port’s senior leadership team of Austin Yang, Chief Financial and Chief Administration Officer; Christina Birdsey, Chief Operations Officer; and Stacy Lange, Chief Commercial & Public Affairs Officer provided updates regarding the port’s economic impact in the region, cargo and revenue performance, infrastructure, innovation, environment, business operations, and community outreach. Miguel Rodriguez, Community Relations and Workforce Development Director, rounded out the presentation by making a strong case for cultivating solid partnerships between the Port of Hueneme, businesses, community organizations, and local leaders.



## Building Bridges

### Port of Hueneme and Port of Paita Sign Memorandum of Understanding to Establish a Sister Port Relationship

On November 14, the Port of Hueneme, California and the Port of Paita, Peru announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding to establish a Sister Port relationship. The initiative, funded by the U.S. Department of State, seeks to promote cooperation and development in areas of mutual interest for both ports.

“This agreement with the Port of Paita is more than just a partnership; it’s a bridge between our communities that will foster innovation, sustainability, and economic growth. We are thrilled to embark on this journey of shared knowledge and mutual advancement and look forward to the many opportunities that this Sister Port relationship will bring,” said Celina Zacarias, President of the Board of Harbor Commissioners for the Port of Hueneme.

The MoU outlines a commitment to foster trade relationships, enhance commercial exchanges, and promote economic development in both Ports and their surrounding regions. Key focus areas include improving transparency in procurement, sharing best practices in port management, exploring green energy initiatives, and collaborating on sustainable port development strategies.

“The signing of this MoU marks a significant step forward in our commitment to fostering international cooperation,

innovation, and economic development. This Sister Port relationship with the Port of Paita opens doors to new opportunities and enables us to share expertise, drive sustainable development, enhance the economic vitality of our respective regions and create a lasting impact on the maritime industry,” said Kristin Decas, CEO & Director of the Port of Hueneme.

“In the North of Peru, TPE stands out as the main port for agro-exports and is the potential gateway for importing products. This characteristic makes it a strategic port on the West Coast of South America. I have no doubt that the signing of this MoU to establish a Sister Port Relationship between the Port of Hueneme and the Port of Paita will bring mutual benefits in terms of development as green ports, commercial strategies, as well as safety & security”, said Eduardo Cerdeira, CEO of Terminales Portuarios Euroandinos (TPE).

The Sister Port relationship is expected to identify common themes that can generate new initiatives and business relationships between the Ports, further strengthening and nurturing ties between the nations.





# The Port of Hueneme has adopted our 10-Year Strategic Plan!

[Click to view the plan](#)

## A Collaborative Vision for Long-Term Prosperity

The Port of Hueneme's 10-Year Strategic Plan focuses on maintaining and expanding its maritime infrastructure to meet evolving market conditions while promoting regional economic vitality. Developed collaboratively under the guidance of the Oxnard Board of Harbor Commissioners and Port staff, the plan included input from representatives of the Oxnard Harbor District, Port of Hueneme, the Cities of Port Hueneme and Oxnard, Ventura County, and private stakeholders. Drafted through a comprehensive process of meetings, surveys, interviews, and community workshops, the plan emphasizes supporting commerce, workforce development, and community well-being. By addressing infrastructure needs and fostering prosperity, the Port aims to enhance quality of life and sustain its role as a vital economic hub.

### Five Key Pillars

The Port Commission has adopted the following five key pillars to guide the Port's strategy over the next decade.

### Infrastructure Investments

Upgrade, replace, and maintain existing infrastructure and incorporate new construction through CapEx. Improve cargo efficiency, velocity, safety, and overall capabilities. Offsite Port improvements to expand logistics network.

### Business Opportunities

Business opportunities include increased imported fruit operations and other cargo from Asia, Central and South America, short-sea shipping, the development of project cargo exports and the growth of auto export and import accounts.

### Environmental Sustainability

Environmental partnerships will hold increased importance as the effects of climate change start to shape the Port's infrastructure and efficiency plans. The Port works to promote partnerships with public stakeholders on the joint Climate Action Plan, addressing green infrastructure.

### Quality of Life

Port of Hueneme continues to benefit the local and regional economy through initiatives that address disparities in economic opportunities and proactively advance racial equity.

[VIEW PLAN](#)





# TRADE PERFORMANCE STRONG AT THE PORT OF HUENEME IN CALENDAR YEAR 2024

## Top Trading Partners By Revenue

(CY year to date numbers, January 1, 2023 - October 31, 2024)

- **Trade with No. 1 South Korea rose 24.91 percent to \$5.59 billion.**  
Exports fell 67.02 percent to \$40.79 million. Imports rose 27.52 percent to \$5.55 billion.
- **Trade with No. 2 Germany rose 7.67 percent to \$2.4 billion.**  
There were no exports. Imports rose 7.67 percent to \$2.4 billion.
- **Trade with No. 3 United Kingdom rose 30.71 percent to \$1.71 billion.**  
There were no exports. Imports rose 30.71 percent to \$1.71 billion.
- **Trade with No. 4 Japan reached \$1.02 billion, dipping slightly compared to CY 2023.**  
Exports rose 0.57 percent to \$100.71 million. Imports fell 5.76 percent to \$922.98 million.
- **Trade with No. 5 Sweden rose 31.13 percent to \$692.11 million.**  
There were no exports. Imports rose 31.13 percent to \$692.11 million.

## Top Imports

(CY year to date numbers, January 1, 2023 - October 31, 2024)

- Passenger vehicles rose 18.72 percent compared to last year to \$12.14 billion.
- Bananas and plantains rose 4.15 percent compared to last year to \$271.36 million.
- Strawberries, blueberries, etc. rose 137.09 percent compared to last year to \$208.3 million.
- Avocados, dates, figs, pineapples, etc. rose 8.21 percent compared to last year to \$170.37 million.

## Top Exports

(CY year to date numbers, January 1, 2023 - October 31, 2024)

- Tanks, armored fighting vehicles, parts totaled \$233.6 million, up 100% with no volumes in this segment in 2023
- Potatoes, prepared, frozen rose 17.33 percent
- Fresh apples, pears rose 46.05 percent



**The Port**  
**OF HUENEME**  
Oxnard Harbor District

*We Make Cargo Move*

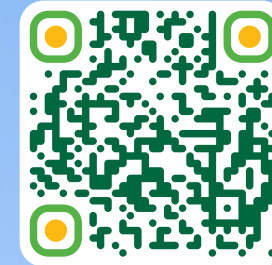
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*The Port is on Social Media!*



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# HUENEME DOCK TALK

*2024 YEAR END NEWSLETTER*



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