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**Dockworkers' Union Commends Ports' Clean Air Action Plan,  
Encourages Other West Coast Ports to Follow**

(SAN FRANCISCO, CA)—The International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), commends the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach for jointly implementing the San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan starting today. As the “canaries in the coalmine,” ILWU’s longshore workers are the first to be affected by port pollution and will be among the first to benefit from the clean up of toxic particulate matter pouring from ship smokestacks, off-road vehicles used in the yard and port trucks.

“The San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan shows what can be done to clean up our ports and communities when there is the collective will to improve health and safety,” said ILWU International President James Spinosa. “This is a major first step, and the members of the ILWU will continue to work to make sure more is done to green our ports in Southern California. Now the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles have to work with us to help make sure these proposals are replicated at ports all along the West Coast, throughout the U.S., and the world. It will take commitment of all parties in the global economy to keep the communities safe and the air clean around the key economic engines of international trade.”

The Ports’ plan outlines a comprehensive strategy. It projects cutting all cargo-handling equipment emissions below current EPA standards, and using the latest technologies and alternative fuels in dockside rail yards. It proposes to replace dirty diesel trucks with new or retrofitted ones. And it echoes the ILWU’s own call to reduce the biggest source of pollution in ports—vessel smokestacks. An important part of the joint plan includes research to further technologies to make this all feasible and profitable.

The ILWU launched its “Saving Lives” campaign in January 2006 at the Faster Freight Cleaner Air Conference in Long Beach, California. The campaign calls for at least a 20 percent reduction in ship stack emissions from current levels within the next four years.

“The ILWU will work closely with the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach to make sure the plan is successful because our members and communities deserve to live and work in a clean environment,” Spinosa said. “Together we can show the way towards a green and profitable port industry.”