

I OAK MARITIME NEWS

DECEMBER 2023

Seasons Greetings!



From Maritime Director Bryan Brandes

2023 has been a year of continued recovery, and we are optimistic about 2024. I want to thank all our partners who make things happen, including seafarers, dockworkers, warehouse workers, railroad workers, freight forwarders, logistics professionals,

truckers, marine terminal operators, Customs and Border Patrol, California Highway Patrol, Oakland Police Department, and the U.S. Coast Guard. It truly takes a huge partnership to keep goods moving. My colleagues and I extend our warmest wishes to you, your family, and friends for a joyful holiday season and a happy, healthy, brighter New Year! ●



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Port of Oakland appoints Colleen Liang as Environmental Director

Focus to be on Port environmental innovation and zero emissions goal

The Port of Oakland appointed Colleen Liang as its new Director of the Environmental Programs and Planning (EP&P) division this month. Ms. Liang joined the Port in 2000. During her 23 years at the Port, she has served in every environmental position, most recently as Acting Director of EP&P. See a recent video about our work [here](#).

“I am truly honored to be given the opportunity to lead a great team in the Environmental Programs and Planning division and oversee the Port’s stewardship of the Oakland waterfront,” said Ms. Liang.

In her new role, Ms. Liang will continue to oversee the Port’s zero emissions program, environmental compliance, hazardous waste and materials management, planning and permitting programs, and grant funding opportunities for zero emissions and sustainability projects.

“It is important to me to continue building on the Port’s momentum of environmental innovation and sustainability,” said Ms. Liang. “I’m thrilled to be a part of this exciting time as we plan to transform the Port of Oakland operations to zero emissions and improve our sustainability practices to be resilient for the future.”

Ms. Liang will also be supporting land use and transportation planning, managing the Port’s resiliency program, including impacts from sea level rise and groundwater intrusion, and updating environmental programs including the Port’s sustainability program.

Colleen Liang received a Bachelor of Science degree in Applied Ecology from the University of California, Irvine. She has been a long-time member and supporter of the Port’s Asian Employees Association. In her spare time, she is a troop leader for her daughter’s girl scout troop and enjoys spending time with her family. 



Environmental Stewardship brochure





Port of Oakland names real estate leader as Chief Real Estate Officer

Jonathan Veach brings national and local expertise to new position

The Port of Oakland has appointed Jonathan Veach as Chief Real Estate Officer. He will manage the Port's Commercial Real Estate division and also the Port's land use and development. The Port of Oakland oversees nearly 20 miles of waterfront property between the Oakland Seaport and Oakland International Airport including Jack London Square. In addition to Port parks and public access, underused acreage is being converted into mixed-use development projects through private investment dollars.

This new position replaces the former Director of Commercial Real Estate position, which historically focused on the Jack London Square waterfront acreage. However, as the Port continues to grow and evolve, it was determined that the real estate function should encompass greater responsibilities that adequately reflect the Port's future real estate needs.

The Chief Real Estate Officer position was created to provide the experience and leadership necessary to formulate and direct future real estate strategies and related public-private negotiations.

Veach will oversee the use, development and maintenance of real estate assets along Jack London Square, Oakland Estuary, Oakland Airport Business Park, and other related assets within the Port's jurisdiction.

"I'm grateful to the Board and Executive Director Danny Wan for entrusting me with the Chief Real Estate Officer role," says Veach. "The Port truly has great potential for transformative development projects, and I'm looking forward to working with the Board and local stakeholders to shape and execute that vision."

Prior to joining the Port of Oakland, Jonathan Veach was formerly an Executive Director in J.P. Morgan Chase's Community Development Real Estate Banking Division where he provided lending to for-profit and not-for-profit developers, government and community-based organizations for affordable housing and economic development projects.

Mr. Veach's public sector experience includes serving as the Housing and Real Estate Manager for the City of Santa Clara and working at the New York City Department of Housing and Development.

Mr. Veach holds a master's degree in public administration from Columbia University, and a bachelor's degree in economics from Princeton University. ●





Maritime Moments

ON DECEMBER 7, 1941, THE EMPIRE OF JAPAN ATTACKED UNITED STATES MILITARY BASES AT PEARL HARBOR, THRUSTING THE U.S. INTO WAR. WORLD WAR II TRANSFORMED OAKLAND INTO ONE OF THE NATION'S BUSIEST MILITARY PORTS, WITH TERMINALS AT THE MIDDLE AND OUTER HARBORS PLAYING A MAJOR ROLE AS STAGING POINTS AND SUPPLY DEPOTS FOR AMERICAN FORCES IN THE PACIFIC. ●

Port of Oakland November container volume dips slightly

Retailers likely still working though excess inventory

The Port of Oakland full import and export volumes were down slightly in November compared to last month, registering 132,648 TEUs (twenty-foot containers), versus 142,255 TEUs in October, representing a 6.8% drop.

Full imports rose 3.8% over November 2022 volume, with 71,258 TEUs passing through Port facilities this November compared to 68,646 TEUs in November 2022. Conversely, full exports declined 3% in November 2023, with 61,390 TEUs handled by Port operators, versus 63,283 TEUs in November 2022.

Empty imports experienced a drop of 0.6%, with 14,118 TEUs passing through the Port, as opposed to 14,197 TEUs in November 2022. Empty exports experienced a 49% decrease, with 19,613 TEUs moving through the Port this November, in contrast to 38,481 TEUs in November 2022.

“We saw some canceled sailings in November as evidenced by the slight dip in vessel calls last month,” says Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes. “This caused our volumes to drop.”



Overall import volumes continue to hover around 70,000 TEUs per month after falling from the extreme highs seen during the pandemic. Export volumes have stabilized around 60,000 TEUs per month in 2023, helped by the improvement in on-time performance for container ships.

This year the Port did not see the usual spike in import cargo volumes during late summer and the fall.

“Consumers continue to spend, and our local economy is growing, so the lack of an upswing in cargo volume is likely because retailers are working though excess inventory,” says Brandes. “Meanwhile, we’ve been investing and implementing projects that have improved the efficiency of our maritime operations. This puts us in an excellent position to handle more cargo.”

Link to Port of Oakland container volume data:

<https://www.oaklandseaport.com/performance/facts-figures/>

INDUSTRY RESOURCE LINKS:

- ▲ [Oakland Portal](#)
- ▲ [Oakland Seaport Map](#)
- ▲ [Ocean Carrier Services](#)
- ▲ [Shipping Forms & Permits](#)
- ▲ [Shore Power & Vessel Commissioning](#)
- ▲ [Trucker Resources](#)
- ▲ [TWIC](#)
- ▲ [Maritime Services Directory](#)



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