



**PORT OF OAKLAND  
SEAPORT**

FEBRUARY 2020

# MARITIME e-NEWS



## Executive Director proclaims ‘Everyone’s Port’



Danny Wan  
Executive Director

**Calling it “everyone’s Port,” the Port of Oakland’s new leader wants an industrial sanctuary to sustain economic vitality here. Executive Director Danny Wan delivered his State of the Port address Jan. 29 saying there’s plenty to feel good about. But he asked a sold-out audience of 350 to help him buffer the Port as Oakland develops.**

[You can read the full text of the Executive Director’s remarks here.](#)

“Our leaders recognize the Port of Oakland is an indispensable jobs and economic engine,” said the Executive Director in his first major address since taking over last November. “Indeed, we are everyone’s Port, but being indispensable means, we have to preserve the Port.”

Mr. Wan asked the audience of business and community leaders to declare a need for an industrial sanctuary policy. The objective would be twofold, he said:

## Imports and exports climb in January

Port of Oakland containerized import volume jumped 7.3 percent last month over January 2019 totals. Exports were up, too, the Port said, lifting hopes for recovery from a U.S.-China trade war. One question remained, however: would concern over the fast-spreading coronavirus dampen trade growth?

“It’s possible,” said Port of Oakland Maritime Director John Driscoll. “The uptick in January was encouraging but we’re hearing from shipping lines that cargo volume could moderate over the next few months.”

Oakland’s year-over-year import volume increase in January followed three straight months of decline, the Port said. Exports rose 3.3 percent in January, up for the fourth straight month. The

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## More electric trucks due in Oakland

Ten additional battery-powered trucks are coming to the Port of Oakland next year to test zero-emission technology. The Port's governing Board green-lighted the trial last month, approving \$2 million to construct electric charging stations. The new rigs would push the all-electric fleet operating at the Port to more than 20 trucks by 2021.

"Our holy grail is the elimination of diesel exhaust in cargo-handling," said Port of Oakland Environmental Programs and Planning Director Richard Sinkoff. "With this decision by the Board, we can continue to examine how battery-powered trucks will be part of the solution."

The Port said it would construct 10 charging stations for one of its tenants, Shippers Transport Express. The freight hauler has agreed to purchase a like number of battery-powered trucks under a California Air Resources Board Zero and Near Zero-Emission Freight Facilities (ZANZEFF) grant awarded to the Port of Long Beach, in partnership with the Ports of Oakland and Stockton. Shippers Transport would use the big-rigs in over-the-road trials throughout 2021.

ZANZEFF is part of [California Climate Investments](#), a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities.

Zero-emission trucks are highlighted in an Air Quality 2020 and Beyond Plan adopted by the Port last year. They're being tested as an alternative to diesel-powered trucks. Among the questions asked about the big rigs:

- Do they have the power and range to work over-the-road?
- Can they run for a full shift on one battery charge?
- Can truckers afford them?

About a dozen battery-powered trucks already operate at the Port. They handle a range of duties from highway drayage to short-haul cargo container shuttling. Approximately 5,000 trucks are registered to haul cargo at the Port.

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- Preserve industrial land use, transportation and infrastructure in and around the Port; and
- Accommodate the transportation, commerce, business and job needs of the region.

The Executive Director, formerly the Port Attorney, spoke at a time of unprecedented growth in Oakland. The pace of downtown development is at an all-time high. Meanwhile, the Port's Aviation and Maritime businesses are at, or near record levels of business volume. Mr. Wan said there's pressure as residential and commercial construction draws ever nearer to the Port.

"Let's all declare and explain the need for an industrial sanctuary policy and explore the ways that such a policy will be compatible with local and regional planning efforts," Mr. Wan implored the audience. "Let your customers and partners, your neighbors and your community know that the Port is for everyone and here to stay for the benefit of all."

Mr. Wan said nearly 13.5 million passengers flew in and out of the Port's Oakland International Airport last year. Its seaport handled the equivalent of 2.5 million 20-foot cargo containers. More than 84,000 depended on the Port for their livelihoods. "If you live in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Port of Oakland probably touches your life on a frequency and in ways that would surprise you," he said.

## Port appoints first-ever COO



*Kristi McKenney  
Chief Operating Officer*

Veteran aviation executive Kristi McKenney has been named Chief Operating Officer at the Port of Oakland. Executive Director Danny Wan announced the appointment this month after the Port's governing Board created the new position in January. Ms. McKenney had been serving as Assistant Director of Aviation at the Port's Oakland International Airport.

"I'm grateful to the Board for establishing the COO position and pleased that Kristi is joining our executive team," said Mr. Wan. "We're developing an ambitious growth strategy for the Port and she'll be instrumental in advancing it."

Mr. Wan said Ms. McKenney would manage Port operations. She'll also oversee Port compliance with Board policies and government regulations, he added. The Executive Director said Ms. McKenney would manage the following departments:

- Engineering Services;
- Environmental Programs and Planning;
- Utilities; and
- Information Technology.

Ms. McKenney joined the Port in 1994 as an Environmental Planner. She became Assistant Director of Aviation in 2014.

Ms. McKenney is a graduate of San Jose State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aeronautics and of the University of California, Berkeley with a Master of Science degree in Civil Engineering. She is a resident of Oakland.



The Executive Director said the Port and its governing Board would develop a master plan over the next year. He said it would address the Port's two primary assets: platform and ecosystem.

"The platform is the stage on which tenants, operators and workers conduct their business," Mr. Wan explained. "The Port needs to provide a platform that is nimble and versatile in that it cuts across organizational structures, silos and policies and adapts to the changing technologies and needs of our users and customers," he said

As for the ecosystem, he said it includes the neighbors, streets and infrastructure surrounding the Port. According to the Executive Director, an industrial sanctuary would be key to preserving its ecosystem.

"It is my contention that in the current environment where housing is a critical need, there needs also be a conscientious effort to provide for a sanctuary for industry and its ancillary transportation needs," said Mr. Wan. "By improving the Port platform to support our business and industry and by better integrating the Port to the ecosystem around us, we will solidify the foundation of a healthy and vibrant Port for decades to come."

## Tribute to mariners unveiled at Port of Oakland

### Sculpture honors working mariners and those who lost their life at sea

The Port of Oakland welcomes the maritime memorial called “Sea Remembrance” at the [International Maritime Center \(IMC\)](#) in Port View Park.

“Seafarers make costly sacrifices being away from home at sea for months at a time,” said Captain Margaret Reasoner with the local IMC chapter. “The sculpture honors them for their hard work and perseverance, and serves as a memorial for the mariners who gave their lives at sea.”

The IMC is a nonprofit organization that supports seafarers passing through the San Francisco-Oakland Bay Area. Captain Reasoner enlisted James Allen King to create the sculpture because of his maritime experience. He is a member of the Sailor’s Union of the Pacific.

Aboard ship, Officer James King (ship’s bosun) oversees the team that maintains the ship’s rigging, anchors, cables and everything else on deck that keeps a vessel running smoothly. Officer King created “Sea Remembrance”, the large, round, abstract metal sculpture that was recently erected at the Oakland Seaport. King says he draws inspiration for his art from the sea.

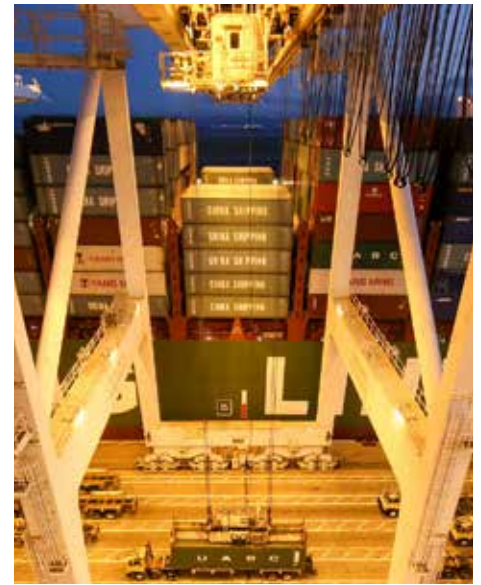
Thousands of men and women work the ships that cross the world’s oceans to deliver goods from one country to the next. Captain Reasoner said she hopes the sculpture will make mariners feel welcome in the Bay Area.

The artist donated all his time that he used to create the sculpture; volunteers from California State University Maritime Academy and the Clean Living Learning Center helped create the foundation for the sculpture; and donations are being collected to cover final expenses.

The sculpture is located outside the IMC at 4001 7th St, Oakland, CA 94607. It can be seen when the IMC is open.



## Cargo from page 1



Port said consumer demand – both in the U.S. and Asia – spurred cargo volume increases.

The Port’s results followed a January trade agreement signaling a thaw in the U.S. tariff skirmish with China. The agreement included a commitment by Beijing to increase purchases of U.S. farm goods. That was good news for California and Midwest exporters who use Oakland’s port as their gateway to Asia. But the coronavirus outbreak that initiated in China blurs the trade outlook.

Quarantines and other emergency measures have slowed Chinese manufacturing output, according to reports. As a result, shipping lines are canceling some springtime voyages to the U.S. The Port said it could take several months to determine the impact of the contagion on global supply chains.

The Port reported that its total January cargo volume – including imports, exports and empty container repositioning – declined 0.6 percent. It said that it handled 17.7 percent fewer empties in January than in the same period last year.

## Get a video glimpse of what’s ahead at Port of Oakland

Coming off a strong 2019, the Port of Oakland is looking forward to a year of significant accomplishment in 2020. That’s the thrust of a new video – “Everyone’s Port,” that details how Port growth would benefit its stakeholders. The video looks at upcoming milestones that include:

- Opening of the Seaport Logistics Complex
- New cranes at Oakland International Container Terminal; and
- A revamped food and beverage lineup at Oakland International Airport.

[Click here to see the 4-minute video.](#)

