

## Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Project Update

The Oakland Seaport encompasses approximately 1,800 acres and is the only deep draft container port in Northern California, servicing more than 99 percent of the containerized goods for Northern California.

The existing Outer Harbor Turning Basin and Inner Harbor Turning Basin were designed and constructed for vessels 1,139 feet long. Today, longer vessels are routinely calling Oakland and are subject to transit restrictions. These inefficiencies and impacts are projected to persist and increase over time because longer vessels are expected to transit the Oakland Harbor with greater frequency.

To improve the efficiency of vessels entering and exiting the Oakland Harbor, the Port, in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is proposing the Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Project to increase the widths of the existing turning basins to accommodate a vessel with a length of 1,310 feet. The proposed project is designed to improve vessel transit conditions and navigational safety.

The Port has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) that is available for public review and comment.

In-person and virtual community meetings occurred in November on the DEIR to explain the project and take public comments. Although the meetings have concluded, the Port is still accepting public comments until 5 pm, December 18, 2023, allowing the public a total of 77 days to review the DEIR and submit comments. → 03



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## Port of Oakland wins prestigious, international industry award

### Port recognized for achievements in communications and environmental management

The Port of Oakland was presented with two awards by the **American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA)** last month at the annual AAPA conference. The AAPA Lighthouse Awards honor the best port programs each year. The American Association of Port Authorities is the voice of the seaport industry in the Americas, representing more than 130 public port authorities in the U.S., Canada, the Caribbean and Latin America.

The Port of Oakland received AAPA's Award for Overall Communications Excellence for its annual employee event - *State of the Port 2023, a 'Sneak Preview'*, held Feb. 1, 2023.

The Port also took home the 2023 Environmental Award of Distinction for **Our Path to Zero Emissions** in the Comprehensive Environmental Management Classification.

"I am proud of our skilled and dedicated Port staff who produce outstanding results in both the fields of Communications and Environmental Management," said Port of Oakland Executive Director Danny Wan. "Winning awards bestowed by our peers at seaports from across the U.S., Canada and Latin America is a wonderful acknowledgement of the work that we do."

State of the Port 2023, a 'Sneak Preview', was held in a festive atmosphere at a unique location, a local movie theater. The event kicked off with the cinematically prepared 4-minute video, **Building for the Next Generation**, presenting the Port's vision to grow responsibly by becoming a zero-emissions port. Each year Executive Director Wan provides an annual State of the Port address to Port business partners, tenants and community leaders. This year, the Port wanted to allow employees to hear from Director Wan about the new Port vision before it was presented to the public. Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao attended the event and thanked Port employees for their dedicated service.

"An award of excellence in overall communications confirms that we are on the right track for keeping our employees informed and engaged about key projects while presenting the information in a fun, transparent and meaningful way," said Port of Oakland Director of Communications Robert Bernardo.

The Port is also proud of the 2023 Environmental Award of Distinction it received for Our Path to Zero Emissions program.

"We presented our comprehensive plan for implementing innovative environmental initiatives to improve air quality and deliver a better environment for Port workers and those who live in surrounding communities," said Port of Oakland Acting Director of Environmental Programs and Planning Colleen Liang. "The goal of this submission was to provide useful information and inspiration for other ports seeking to improve their environmental footprint."

This submission summarized the Port's Zero Emissions Program, outlined in the **Seaport Air Quality 2020 and Beyond Plan**, which provides a roadmap to achieve a carbon neutral port by 2040.

Port of Oakland Executive Director Danny Wan accepted the awards at the AAPA annual conference on October 24, 2023. ●



## Port of Oakland October container export volume rises

### Exporters continue to return to Oakland



The Port of Oakland October export container volume rose to the highest volume in any single month seen in 2023.

Full export TEUs (twenty-foot containers) rose 4% during October 2023 compared to October 2022, with a volume of 68,974 TEUs. The fading of supply chain congestion caused by pandemic-related disruptions continues to bring exporters back.

“Our port remains the preferred export gateway for fruits, nuts, meats, and grains since we are the closest to agricultural areas in the Central Valley,” said Port of Oakland Maritime Director Bryan Brandes. “We also offer the fastest transit times to Asia since we are the last port of call in the US before ships go back across the Pacific.”

Full imports are down 8% in October 2023 compared to October 2022. Import volumes seem to have stabilized around 70,000 TEUs per month.

Although national consumer spending may be dampened, consumer spending remains strong in the home market of Northern California. However, it has declined somewhat from the heights it reached during the pandemic.

“Import growth is expected to remain flat as traffic continues to stabilize after the significant spikes we saw during the pandemic years,” says Brandes. “Shipping rates remain low and carriers are signaling that will remain well into 2024.”

Congestion at the Port of Oakland has resolved in 2023 and ships are now able to arrive and depart without delay.

Link to Port of Oakland container volume data:  
<https://www.oaklandseaport.com/performance/facts-figures/>

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## Turning Basins Widening Project Update *from page 1*

### How to submit comments on the DEIR

- Submit comments using the online form at:  
<https://www.oaklandseaport.com/turningbasins>
- Email comments to: [Turningbasins@portoakland.com](mailto:Turningbasins@portoakland.com)
- Mail comments to:

Port of Oakland  
Environmental Programs and Planning Division  
Ms. Khamly Chuop  
530 Water Street  
Oakland, CA 94607 ●







## November Port Visitors

The Port of Oakland's leadership and reputation in port operations is evidenced by the number of groups that visit the Port. Here are three that took time to visit this month.



### Vietnam Visitors (above and left)

The Port of Oakland had more international visitors this month. Oakland Mayor Sheng Thao joined the Port in welcoming representatives from the city of Haiphong, Vietnam for meetings, a tour of the Seaport and to sign a major trade agreement. Vietnam is the Port's second largest import market and fifth largest export market, with trade valued at more than \$400 million in the past year.



### Hawaii Visitors (below)

The Port of Oakland welcomed a delegation of legislators and transportation officials from Hawaii. They toured the Seaport and met with Port leadership to discuss Oakland's critical role in goods movement to the Hawaiian Islands, and current and future projects that are decarbonizing port operations.



### California State Association of Counties (CSAC) (above)

Members of the California State Association of Counties (CSAC) visited the Port to learn about global trade. The CSAC represents county government before the California Legislature, administrative agencies and the federal government.





## Maritime Moments

SHIPS OF VARIOUS FUNCTIONS UTILIZED THE SEAPORT OVER THE YEARS. HERE WE SEE A FERRY, A WARSHIP AND A BOAT DOCKED AT MUNICIPAL DOCK NO. 1, CIRCA 1915. ●

## INDUSTRY RESOURCE LINKS:

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

*Season's Greeting*

