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## Local port initiatives spreading

### Officials' trip to Australia shows influence of clean-air programs.

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LONG BEACH - Fresh from a trade trip to Australia, port commissioners Monday said versions of local clean-air initiatives are taking root in seaports around the globe.

While attending a maritime conference in Sydney last week, commissioners were approached by port authority leaders from Asia, Europe and elsewhere curious about aggressive green growth efforts here.

Holland's Port of Rotterdam, Europe's largest, is adopting a vessel speed reduction program similar to one in Long Beach-Los Angeles which offers shippers reduced dockage fees for slowing within 20 miles of port.

The program is estimated to remove more than 400 tons of smog-forming nitrogen oxides from the air annually.

"I was quite taken aback, because we knew ports all over the world were looking to what we're doing here in Long Beach-Los Angeles, but we didn't realize how quick the international community was going to come on board," Commission Vice President Mario Cordero said. "One of our hopes has been that these environmental steward-type plans will spread not only on the West Coast but throughout the world."

Other nations, including China, are studying pilot programs here involving dockside cold-ironing, hybrid yard hostlers and the use of smoke-stack filters on ships and trains, Cordero said.

The Cities and Ports International Conference was held Nov. 5-9 in Sydney. From Long Beach, attendees included Commissioners Cordero, James Hankla, Doris Topsy-Elvord and Mike Walters and Councilmembers Bonnie and Suja Lowenthal attended.

The port, a public agency, picked up travel expenses.

In the coming week, authorities at both ports are set to adopt their "San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan."

Commissioners from the Ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles will hold a rare joint session to vote on the plan at 1:30 p.m. Monday at Long Beach City Council Chambers, 333 W. Ocean Blvd.

Together, the ports are committing more than \$400 million for the effort, with bonds, grants and industry expected to pay for the rest of the overall \$2 billion-plus task.

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