PORT’S ROLE AS AN ENVIRONMENTAL LEADER
AAPA Executive Management Conference – May 1-5, 2017
Sarah Garza, Director of Environmental Planning & Compliance
Historical Role

• Compliance only
• Combined with other responsibilities and not a primary responsibility
• Often combined in another department such as engineering or real estate/planning
• Not typically pro-active, reactive
• Controversial
Changes In Role

- Voluntary Programs began to gain leverage
- Significant industry events led to public pressure to focus more on environmental
- Communities contesting permit applications and public outreach becoming critical element in project approval
- Regulations becoming more stringent
- West Coast regulations set the bar high
ISO 14001 & AAPA EMS Program

• In 2004 AAPA announced its assistance program for Port’s to develop an EMS program modeled after ISO 14001
• Game changer for environmental stewardship
• Plan-Do-Check-Act Framework that allowed Port’s to systematically improve
• Pro-active, efficient, prioritization of key issues
Environmental Hot Topics

- Shore Power
- Ozone - air quality attainment/non-attainment areas
- Clean Fleets - electrification / alternative fuels
- Jurisdictional wetlands / mitigation
- Green Power
- Sediment reuse – beneficial reuse
- Endangered species protection
- Water supply
- Ballast water management and other IMO regulations
- Climate change / adaptation / resiliency
Environmental at PCCA

- Environmental under Engineering
- 2007 incident during construction led to Environmental review of construction documents 3 days before advertising
- Over time began to understand need for more involvement sooner in the process
- Community pressures / NOVs at Bulk Terminal led to more proactive environmental measures
- 2015 Environmental Planning & Compliance Department formed
- Directive to get ahead of regulations and not to let regulations drive our environmental program
Adoption & Revised Environmental Policy

2004 – 4C’s
• Compliance
• Commit to pollution prevention
• Continual improvement
• Communicate our performance

2016 – 5 Precepts
- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Soils & Sediments
- Wildlife Habitat
- Environmental Sustainability
Port of Corpus Christi

- Tenant audit program
- EMS Requirement and scorecard for stevedores
- Design checklists for sustainable development
- GIS Planning and compliance tracking tools
- Environmental recordkeeping software
- Strategic action plan
- Property cleanups
- Clean equipment program / technology advancement program
- Truck stop electrification
- Regional water supply leadership – desalination plant
The Port is Open for Business

Four Pillars of Success the Port seeks in companies it desires to do business with:

- Job Creation & Economic Growth
- Environmental Stewardship & Sustainability
- Educational & Workforce Development
- Safety & Corporate Social Responsibility
Thank You!

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