SEAPORT SUSTAINABILITY in a CHALLENGING ECONOMY

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Who I Am

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- Senior Environmental Remediation Specialist
- Coordinates and advocates sustainability initiatives and training
- Member of AAPA’s Sustainability Task Force
- 13 years at the Port of Long Beach
- 18 years as an environmental consultant
- BS Geology
Goals of this Presentation

• Summarize the economic state-of-affairs at the Port of Long Beach

• Offer ideas for using internal resources - human capital – to implement sustainability with minimal expenditure of financial capital

• Provide examples of how external partnerships can be leveraged

• Present POLB’s plans to move forward to meet the challenges of this economy
POLB container cargo dropped 11% in 2008!

Largest single-year decline in over 20 years

7.3 million TEUs in 2007
6.5 million TEUs in 2008

Exports dropped by 34.2% in December 2008

National unemployment is highest in decades

New California greenhouse gas regulations will be very expensive to implement
The Triple Bottom Line in a Poor Economy

FINANCIAL SOLVENCY

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
The Main Question

What can ports do in tough economic times to ensure that their sustainability programs don’t lose momentum?
Internal Measures for Sustainability

Examine and optimize business practices by reviewing or initiating Standard Operating Procedures to identify:

- Areas of redundancy
- Weak points in compliance or security
- Best management/technological practices
- Opportunities for collaboration within the organization
Internal Measures for Sustainability

Tap into your employee’s values and resources:

• Use human capital to discover cost-effective opportunities for sustainable practices

• Find unique ways of promoting and rewarding cost- or resource-saving suggestions

• Show good leadership by example!
External Measures for Sustainability

Expand partnerships:

• Work with consultants and contractors to ensure that their work for you is conducted sustainably

• Join with other organizations, such as the military, local and regional governments, and customers to leverage resources and experience; build upon economies of scale

• Collaborate with regulators to improve the environment and save resources with programs that they will subsidize through grants or incentives
Community Support

Improve your port’s relationship with the community by:

• Making your operation as transparent as possible

• Encouraging your customers to support the community

• Incentivizing employee participation

• Working with schools to develop engineering and science curriculums, scholarships, and trade programs
Harbor Arbor Day
Port Fest 2008
Moving Forward at POLB

We will continue to:

• Modernize our terminals (creates jobs, reduces pollution)

• Work on pollution and greenhouse gas strategies

• Invest in emerging technology to create and promote “green collar” jobs (http://www.cleanairactionplan.org/tech/default.asp)

• Operate in a fiscally-responsible and transparent manner

• Listen to our employees, customers, and community
The Green Port Policy

Five guiding principles:

• Protect the community from harmful environmental impacts of Port operations.

• Distinguish the Port as a leader in environmental stewardship and compliance

• Promote sustainability.

• Employ best available technology to avoid or reduce environmental impacts.

• Engage and educate the community.