# Trash Free Waters Project: A Collaborative Stakeholder Process







AAPA Annual Convention Miami ~ November 3, 2015 Amelia Pellegrin, AICP, LEED AP Environmental Services Manager

#### Port NOLA Trash Free Waters (TFW) Pilot Project

In collaboration with U.S. EPA, port tenants and community stakeholders, Port NOLA is working to address the universal issue of trash, litter and debris and to prevent it from reaching our waterways.







#### U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Trash Free Waters Program

A strategic approach to reduce trash in aquatic ecosystems



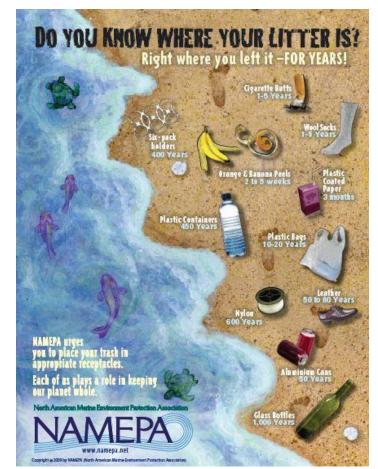
**EPA Goal Statement:** Significantly reduce the amount of trash entering U.S. water bodies and the ocean through actions taken by government (at all levels), the business community, and individual citizens, approaching zero loadings of trash into aquatic ecosystems within 10 years.

- Calculating the direct and indirect costs of trash to society.
- Assessing *ecological and human health effects* from microplastics in the marine food chain.
- Exploring *public/private partnerships* for litter prevention and behavior modification.
- Defining *credible metrics* to assess the success of aquatic trash reduction programs.



#### An Environmental and Economic Issue with Social Impacts = Sustainability Challenge

- 80% of aquatic trash comes from land-based sources.
- Millions of tons of litter flow through the Mississippi River Watershed annually to the Gulf of Mexico
- State and local government agencies spend \$40 million per year cleaning up litter in Louisiana
- Port NOLA spends >800 labor hours or \$30,000 annually picking up trash and litter.





#### The Landscape:

#### **Diversified Port Cargo, Operators and Customers**

#### CARGO

#### BREAKBULK

#### **HEAVY LIFT**





#### **REFRIGERATED CARGO**



# CRUISE

#### **REAL ESTATE**





# **GATEWAY TO INLAND WATERWAYS**



- 23,000 km system of navigable waterways (14,500 miles).
- Provides connectivity to 33 states and Canada.
- Most environmentally-friendly means of transporting cargo.
- Located at the bottom of largest watershed in North America - how can we have an impact?



# Inclusive Stakeholder Process Focused on Feasible, Collaborative Solutions

Triple G Express Southern Recycling **TCI** Trucking **Coastal Cargo** Ports America New Orleans Terminal Audubon Aquarium **Regional Planning Commission** LA DEQ Sewerage and Water Board City of New Orleans **Jefferson Parish UNO**, Nicholls State Lake Pontchartrain Basin Foundation NOAA Institute for Local Innovation New Orleans Business Alliance

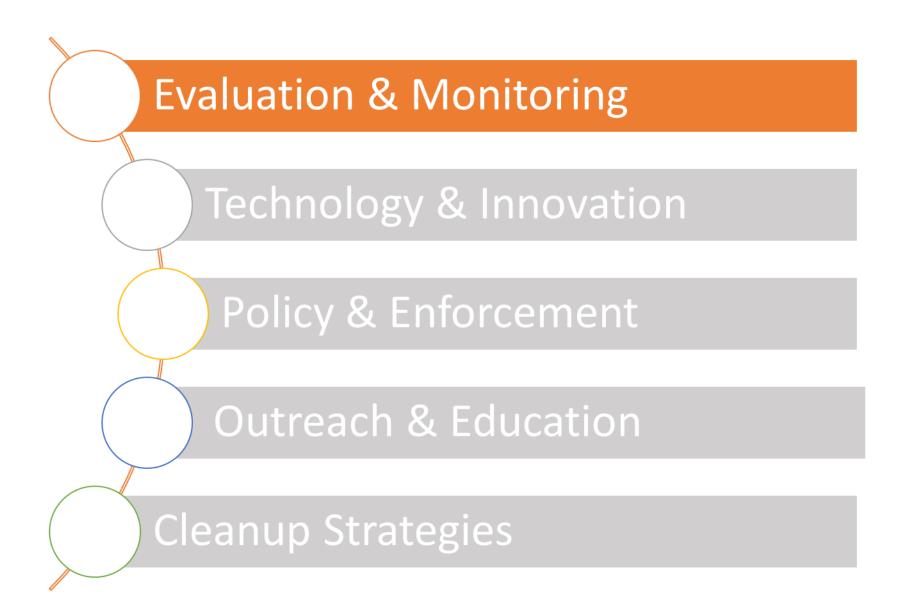
**Evaluation & Monitoring** 

Technology & Innovation

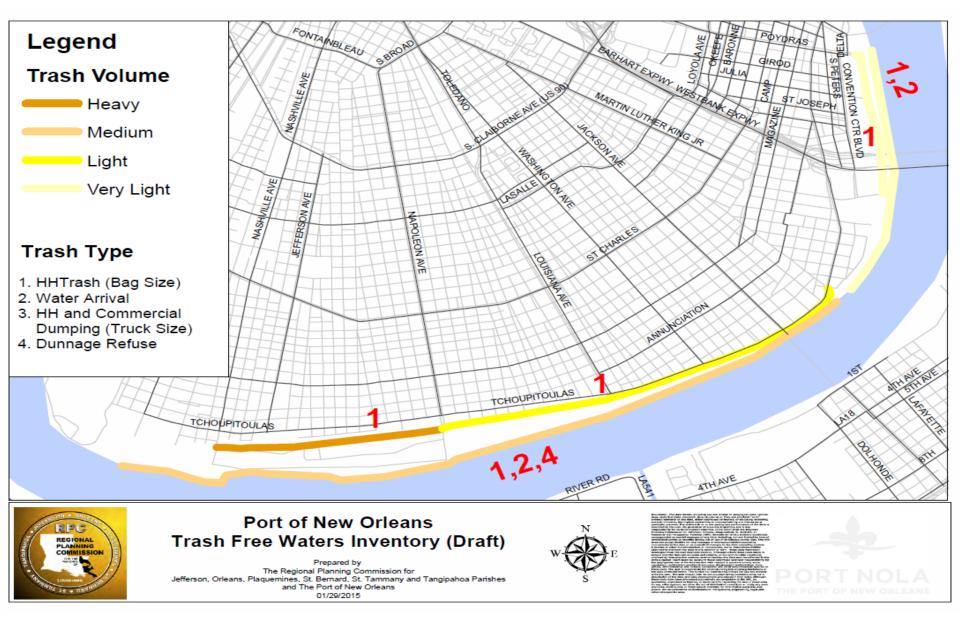
Policy & Enforcement

**Outreach & Education** 

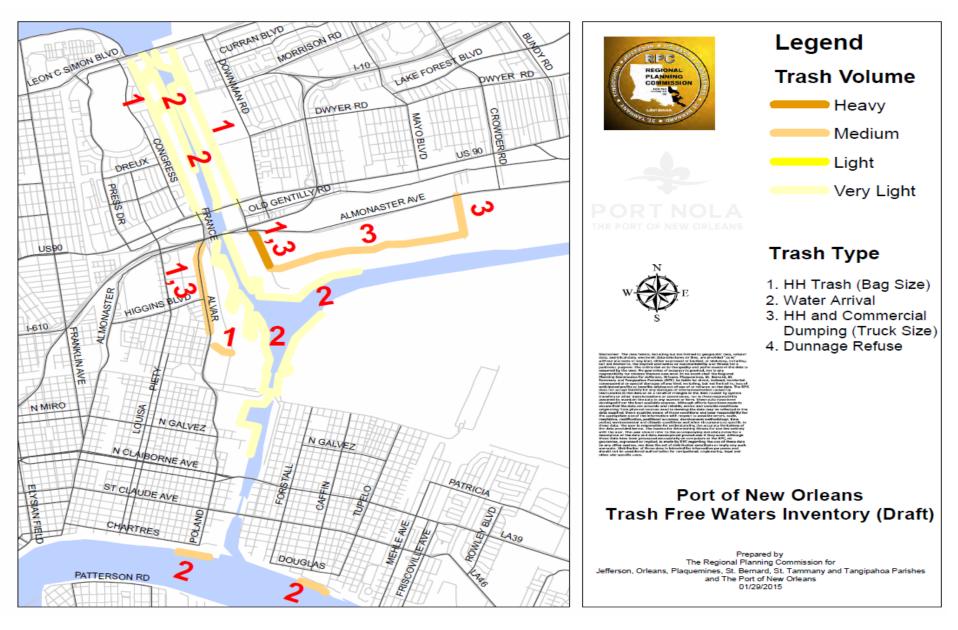
**Cleanup Strategies** 



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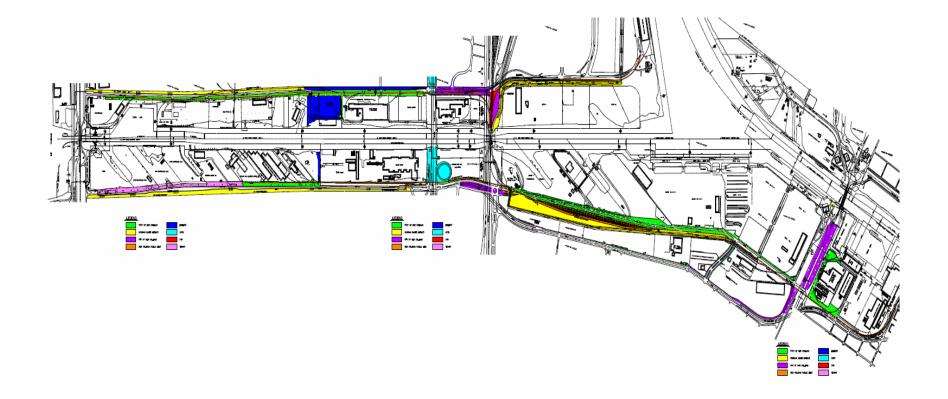




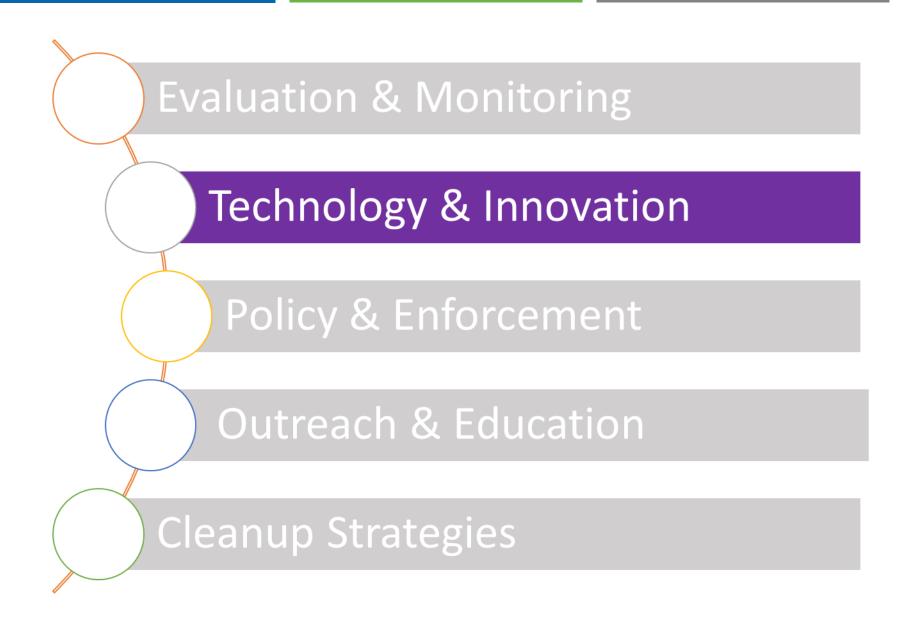




# **Grounds Maintenance Map: A Complex Web of Responsibilities**





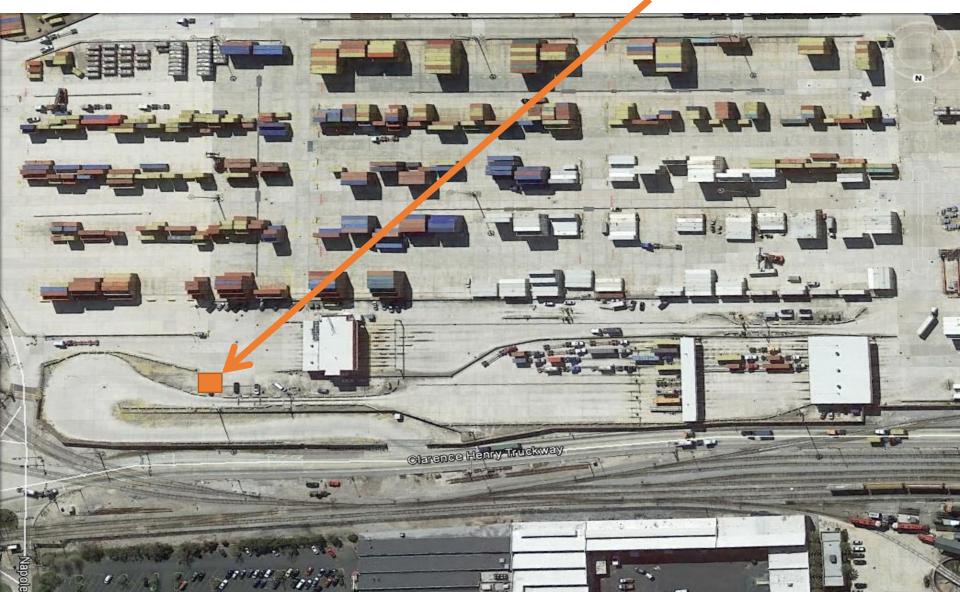








#### **Proposed Port Funded Solution**







# Port of New Orleans BMP Standards for New Storm Drain Grates

- Must maintain current weight loading standards.
- Must allow for adequate flow of stormwater.
- Hole size must be smaller than 2" square; 1.25" width maximum if rectangular slots.

#### Standards based on:

- Research from current drain grates available foundry catalogs.
- Measurements of common waste items that currently pass through grates on CHT.



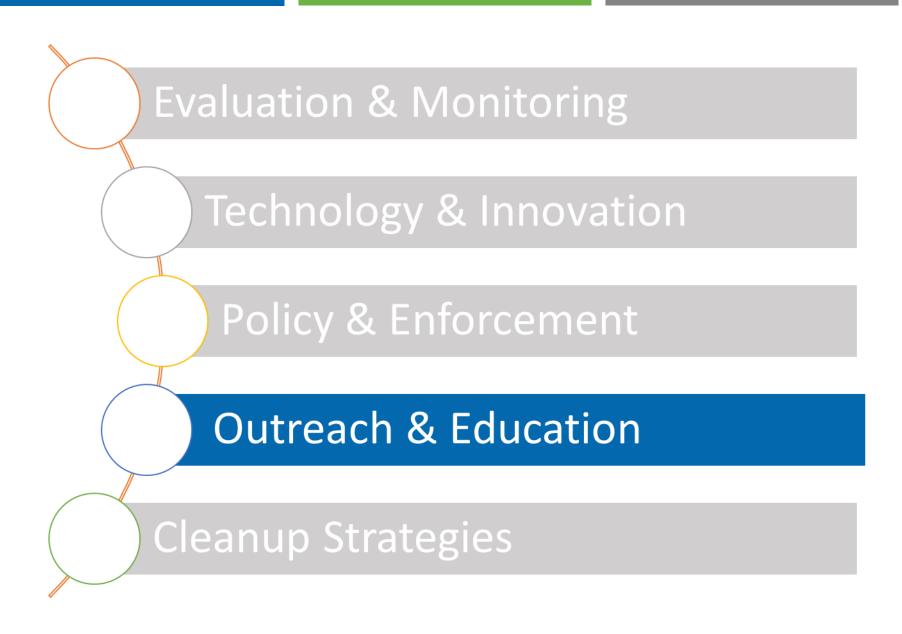




## **Board of Commissioners Adopt Trash Free** Waters Policy and Program Commitment

- 1. Holistic approach to land-based and waterbased litter and debris.
- 2. Embraces the approach of Trash Free Waters.
- 3. Acknowledges existing ordinances and enforcement limitations.
- 4. Relies on community participation and collective efforts.
- 5. Multiple lines of action: technologies, prevention, communications, behavioral changes, and cleanup.
- 6. Feasible and replicable.





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# Campaign Brand and Strategy Were Created and Tested with a Diverse Team

<u>Measurable Goal:</u> increase "water literacy" and change behavior at the Port and beyond.

**Targeted Audience:** 1) Truckway: Port workers, drivers and operators 2) Port visitors & the public.

<u>Multi-Media:</u> Giveaways, banners, trash can signage, print and social media.

**<u>Positive Message</u>**: Port is a <u>public asset</u>, so are our waterways. Ownership is collective – take pride and responsibility.



# YOUR PORT. YOUR WATER. YOUR NOLA Keep It Clean!



# Multi-Media Campaign Approach

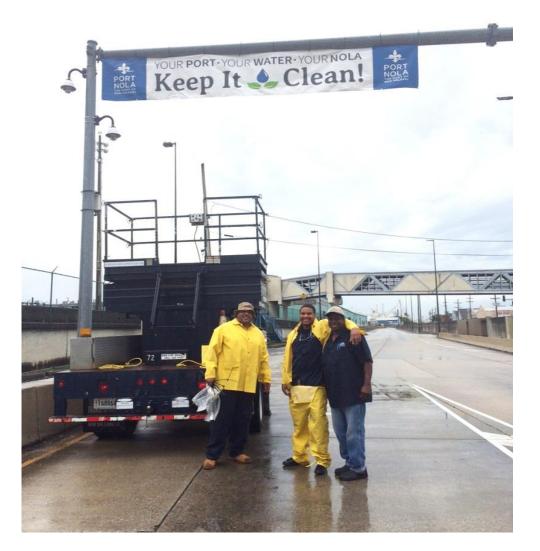
- 1. **Giveaways:** Truck drivers, Port workers, cleanup volunteers.
- 2. Terminal Operators and Truck Companies: Fleets, equipment & trash cans.
- **3. Board:** Fleets, equipment & trash cans
- 4. Signage: LED traffic signs, banners & yard signs.
- 5. Online: Port website, TFW partner websites and social media.
- 6. Print: Press release, Port Record & tenant / dispatch notices.







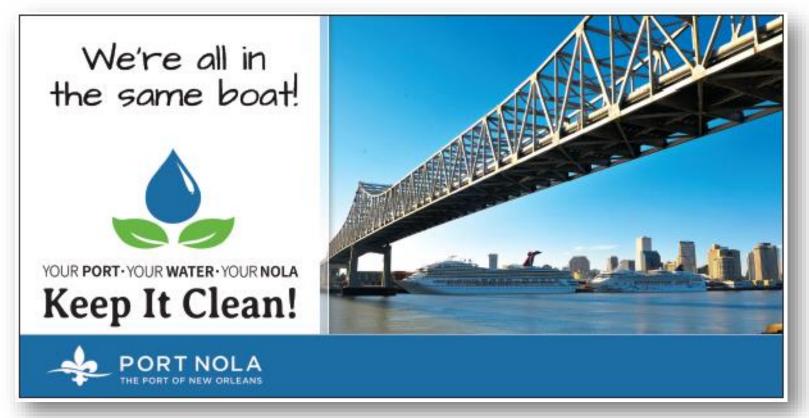
#### **High Visibility Messaging**





# We All Play a Part in Water Quality

Including Administration Building visitors and cruise passengers in campaign launch for broader awareness and participation.





# **By-You Drainscapes**

#### A Port of New Orleans Community Initiative



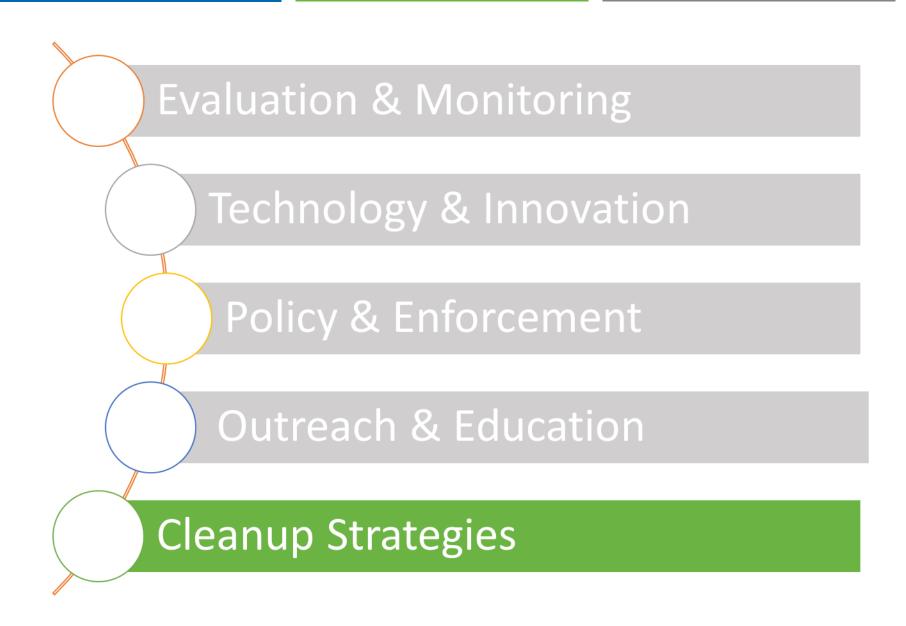
# Examples of public storm drain art from other cities:











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#### Earth Day 2015: Great Mississippi River Cleanup

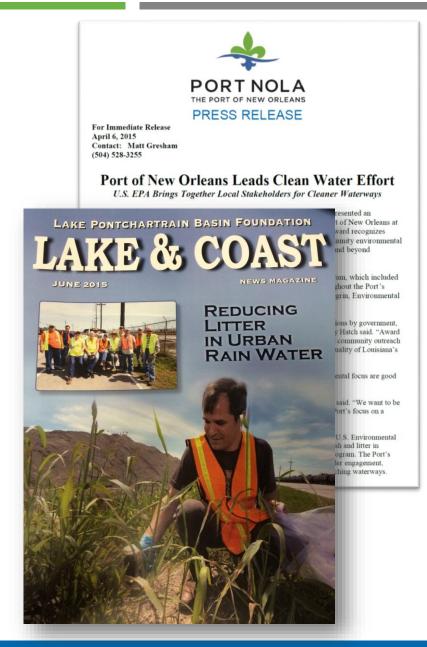






## **Lessons Learned**

- Short timeline helped to balance the time commitment.
- Credibility gains were a direct result of implementation.
- Trust building a major benefit: new and enhanced relationships.





# **Involvement From Industry Partners Was Critical For Success and Implementation**

New Orleans Terminal, Ports America's and the Trucking Industry input and participation throughout the TFW process was a critical success factor...and led to our <u>2015 AAPA Environmental Award!</u>













#### **Humility: The Best Ideas Are Not Ours**

A Port-funded solution for container truck traffic: adding a dumpster in the terminal with signage.







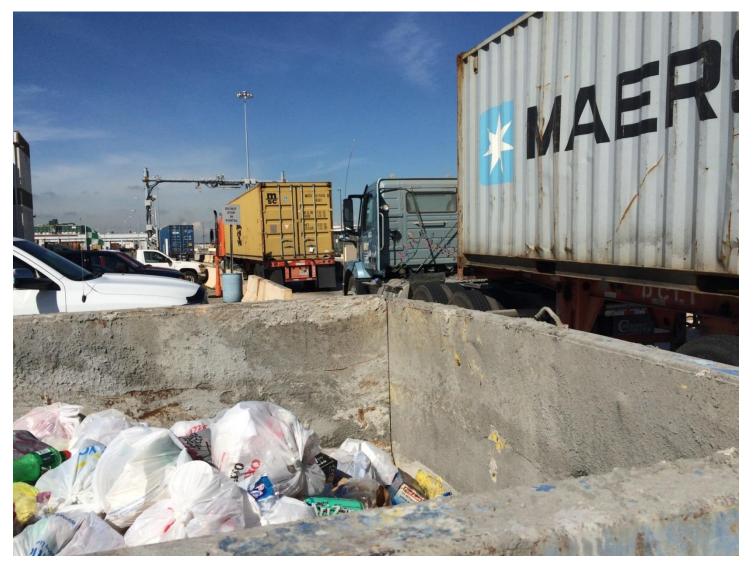
Throw me something, Mister!



PORTNOLA



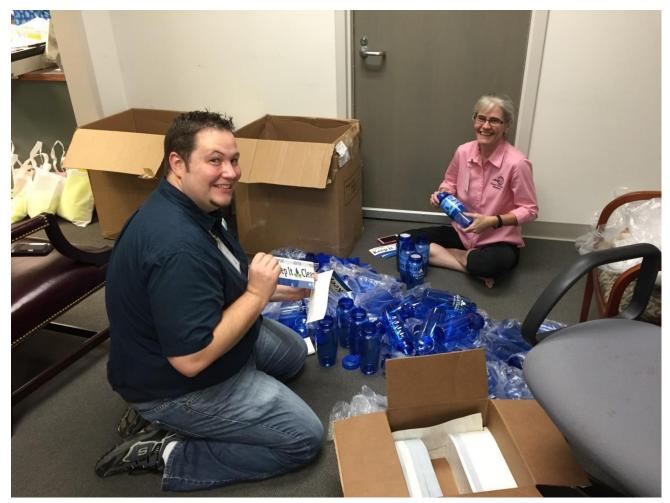
#### **Aim for <u>VISIBLE</u>** Outcomes







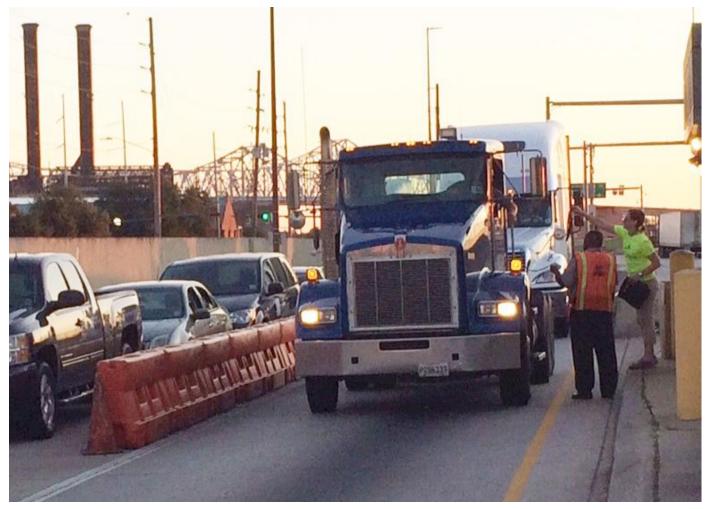
#### **Engage New Partners**



Volunteers from Global Maritime Ministries help stuff bags of Keep It Clean campaign giveaways.



#### **Put Some Skin in the Game**



Port Environmental staff hand truckers and port workers reusable water bottles, reusable trash receptacles and more at the Felicity Street gate.



#### **Keep it Positive**



Campaign launch was coordinated with National Truck Driver Appreciation Week and multiple events around the port for truck drivers.





# Thank you !

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