



News Release

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COUNCILWOMAN JANICE HAHN ANNOUNCES PORT OF LOS ANGELES TO BE TSUNAMI READY IN EARLY 2008

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Councilwoman Called for Action in 2005 to Prepare Harbor Area in Case of Tsunami

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Janice Hahn announced today that the Port of Los Angeles will be tsunami ready early in 2008. Following the Asian tsunami of 2005, Councilwoman Hahn called on the Port of Los Angeles to work with the City's Emergency Preparedness Department and the Department of Transportation to create a preparedness and warning system, as well as an evacuation plan.

In response, the Port of Los Angeles hired an outside consultant to help create the system. Inundation maps were created and obtained, and evacuation routes have been determined. Currently, the port is conducting public outreach and has mailed preparedness pamphlets to area residents, as well as businesses located in or near the port. Meetings with local neighborhood councils and other community groups are pending. Once outreach is complete, tsunami warning signs will be installed along the coast, which is scheduled for early next year.

"I have been calling for the port to be tsunami ready for more than 2 years because we know how devastating such a large wave could be, not only to human life, but also to operations at the port," said Councilwoman Hahn. "In the event of an earthquake on the Catalina fault, we would have less than 10 minutes to evacuate our port and coastal areas. We must be prepared."

In addition to a tsunami plan, the Councilwoman has also called for a recovery plan at the Port of Los Angeles in the event of a disaster. The Port of Los Angeles recently awarded a contract to a consultant to create such a plan, which is expected in 2008.

"In the case of a terrorist attack, or a natural disaster such as a tsunami, we must be prepared to recover as quickly as possible," added the Councilwoman. "Such a plan is vital not only to our local economy but to the national and world economies. The Public Policy Institute of California found that a significant disruption at the ports could cost the national economy \$45 billion—with 64% of the effects felt within the Los Angeles region. We must find a way to be back up and running as quickly as possible."

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