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HARBOR

New Home for Port Police

Ground is broken for new Port Police headquarters.



An architect's rendering of the new Port Police headquarters building.

Construction of a new headquarters building for the Los Angeles Port Police began with a flourish May 1 as City and Port officials grabbed shovels and ceremoniously started turning dirt at the site. Slated for completion in 2010, the state-of-the-art headquarters at Centre Street between Third and Fifth Streets in San Pedro will house the Port Police's growing force, which maintains security at the nation's largest container port and in the communities that surround it.

"These men and women are not only responsible for public safety at the Harbor; they are responsible for ensuring the safe movement of cargo into and out of the region," said Councilwoman Janice Hahn, Club Member. "They protect the largest economic engine in our region on a daily basis, ensuring the safe, uninterrupted flow of commerce. This first-class police department deserves a first-class facility, and this new headquarters will be just that."

"The new Port Police headquarters underscores our commitment to ensuring that our safety and security assets here at the Port of Los Angeles are the gold standard in the global maritime industry," added Port of Los Angeles Executive Director Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D.

Port Police Chief Ronald Boyd noted: "We

want to be good neighbors to our port stakeholder partners, our surrounding communities and to all those who visit the port. The only ones who won't like having us in the neighborhood are those who would bring risk or harm to the community."

The new \$43 million, 51,000-square-foot headquarters will include updated dispatch, surveillance and emergency-operations centers, among other facilities, enabling the police agency to enhance its capability to serve the Port and adjacent communities.

It also will be constructed to meet a LEED "Gold" rating, the second-highest rating awarded by the U.S. Green Building Council, which awards points for sustainable design and construction elements. LEED features at the new Port Police headquarters will include photovoltaic solar panels for generating electricity, water-efficient landscaping and plumbing, an on-site storm-water management system, recycled construction waste and other environmentally friendly measures.

The new headquarters for the maritime police force prominently featured in the current "America's Port" reality-documentary series on the National Geographic Channel will replace a 4,000-square-foot space the Port Police now occupy inside the Port of Los Angeles administrative building. The current facilities were originally designed for 30 officers. The Port Police force has grown to approximately 125 officers and is expected to grow to about 200.

In another sign of the growing numbers and visibility of the Port Police, a new substation is scheduled to open soon in Wilmington. The facility will have a walk-up service desk, giving Wilmington residents ready access to Port Police. In addition, the substation will be the future home of all the Port Police's maritime operations.



Removing the ceremonial first shovel of dirt at the groundbreaking ceremony were, from left: Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D., Port Executive Director and Club Member; Port Police Chief Ronald Boyd, Club Member; U.S. Coast Guard Commander Paul Hamilton; and Councilwoman Janice Hahn, Club Member.



Port Police Chief Ronald Boyd, Club Member, gives his remarks at the official groundbreaking event.

