



## ***GERALDINE KNATZ, Ph.D.***

### **Executive Director**

As executive director of the Port of Los Angeles, Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D. oversees the daily operations and internal management of the nation's number one container port. After an exhaustive national search, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa nominated Dr. Knatz for the position in late 2005. In January 2006, she became the first female executive director of the Port of Los Angeles.

Moving the Port of Los Angeles forward with an agenda that focuses on responsible Port growth and environmental leadership is an aggressive goal that Dr. Knatz has tackled from day one. Reducing port emissions, eliminating health risks and expanding capital development programs to accommodate the Port's future growth as a premiere Pacific gateway and national economic engine are top priorities at the Port under the leadership of Dr. Knatz.

A key to accomplishing these goals is the landmark San Pedro Bay Ports Clean Air Action Plan, approved in November 2006 by the Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbor Commissions. The Clean Air Action Plan provides a comprehensive strategy for reducing air emissions from port operations by nearly 50 percent over a period of five years. Dr. Knatz was instrumental in the creation and implementation of the Clean Air Action Plan. Her efforts facilitated the first joint meeting of the leaders of the two ports since the 1920s and the first ever public meeting of the two Port Boards on the day the Plan was approved last November.

Dr. Knatz's take-charge attitude and relentless energy in making "green growth" a top priority at the Port of Los Angeles has earned her numerous accolades, including recognition as: one of Journal of Commerce Magazine's "Outstanding Women in Transportation" for 2007; "Woman Executive of the Year" in May 2007 by the Los Angeles Business Journal; one of Southern California's 100 Most Influential People by Los Angeles Times' West Magazine; and, in December 2006, a spot on Los Angeles Magazine's "Power List" of L.A. Influentials.

Dr. Knatz previously served as managing director of the neighboring Port of Long Beach. As the number two executive at the Port of Long Beach, Dr. Knatz oversaw a \$2.3 billion capital improvement program and spearheaded a number of environmental initiatives, including development of the Green Port Policy and Truck Trip Reduction Program. While her impressive tenure at the Port of Long Beach spans two decades, Dr. Knatz began her maritime career as an environmental scientist at the Port of Los Angeles in 1977.

In June 2007, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger appointed Dr. Knatz to the California Ocean Protection Council (OPC), which oversees and coordinates statewide policy for the protection and management of California's ocean and coastal resources. In October 2007, Dr. Knatz was selected to be the chair-elect for the American Association of Port Authorities' U.S. Legislative Policy Council.

Dr. Knatz serves on the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA) Board of Directors, is the past chair of the Marine Board of the National Academy of Sciences and has been appointed by the Secretary of Commerce to the National Sea Grant College Program Review Panel. A member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH), Dr. Knatz chairs the organization's Environmental Committee, representing the IAPH at the International Maritime Organization (IMO), part of the United Nations, on international maritime treaties. She also serves on the executive committee for the American Association of Port Authorities and is a past chair of its Harbors and Navigation Committee.

A proud alumna of the University of Southern California, where she presently teaches in the Civil Engineering School, Dr. Knatz earned two degrees from USC: a doctorate in biological science and a Master of Science in environmental engineering. She also holds an undergraduate degree in zoology from Rutgers University. Born and raised in New Jersey, Dr. Knatz resides in Long Beach with her husband and two sons.

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