GERALDINE KNATZ, Ph.D.  
Executive Director

As executive director at the Port of Los Angeles, Geraldine Knatz, Ph.D. oversees the daily operations and internal management of the nation’s number one containerport. After an exhaustive national search, Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa nominated Dr. Knatz for the position in late 2005. She joined the Port of Los Angeles in January 2006, after Los Angeles City Council confirmed her appointment by the Los Angeles Harbor Commission.

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 regional economic engine are the key elements of a strategy Dr. Knatz and the Port are developing for the critical five years ahead.

The first female in history to serve as executive director of the Port of Los Angeles, Dr. Knatz previously served as managing director of the neighboring Port of Long Beach for seven years. As the number two executive at the Port of Long Beach, she oversaw a $2.3 billion capital improvement program and led 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's maritime career first began as an environmental scientist at the Port of Los Angeles in 1977.

A proud alumna of the University of Southern California, where she presently teaches civil engineering, 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.

Dr. Knatz serves on the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA) Board of Directors, chairs 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.

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Dr. Knatz is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Association of Ports and Harbors (IAPH), and 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 is active in the American Association of Port Authorities and is a past chair of its Harbors and Navigation Committee. She also is a member of the Women’s Transportation Seminar Los Angeles Chapter (WTS-LA).

A New Jersey native, Dr. Knatz resides in Long Beach with her husband and two sons.

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