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For Immediate Release

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Port Commission Briefed on the NOAA Project Progress

NEWPORT – The Port Commission was briefed on the progress of the NOAA Project at its monthly meeting Tuesday, July 27, 2010.

Project manager Glenn Schnaidt of DAY CPM Services advised the Commission that the project's guaranteed maximum price (GMP) documents have been fully executed, that the project is on budget and that all insurance paperwork has been completed. Additionally, the upland construction is on schedule with the project approximately 15% completed. The upland portion of work is scheduled to be 10% complete by May 1, 2011 while the pier work is scheduled to be completed by July 1, 2011 in conformance with the lease agreement between the Port and NOAA.

Mr. Schnaidt said the underground utility work and the footings and floor slabs for the two-story office and warehouse have been poured. Half of the warehouse's wall panels were poured a couple of weeks ago and will be erected between August 3rd and 6th.

NOAA's Joint Permit Application (JPA) was submitted to the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) and to the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) in May and was deemed complete by each agency. Both the Corps' and DSL's 30-day public review period of the JPA has ended. DSL has reviewed the comments through the state's review process and has issued the comments to the Port. The Port has until the third week of August 2010 to return its replies. The Port is expecting to receive comments to the Corps' public notice this week.

Don Mann, Port General Manager noted the US Army Corps of Engineers has granted the Port's request to harvest eel grass from an area slated for dredging during the in-water work period. In its application to the Corps, the Port proposed to carefully remove approximately

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8,000 plants and transplant them to the Oregon Coast Aquarium where they will be placed in a temporary nursery until they can be safely transplanted at the project's mitigation site next spring. A volunteer group of 25-35 people will complete the eel grass extraction during the August 9th and 10th minus tides. The harvesting and transportation process will be closely monitored by aquarium staff and the Port's scientific consultants.

Mr. Mann also announced that he signed the final closing documents for the nearly \$24 million Lease Revenue Bonds on July 14. This closing concludes the funding process for the project. He noted that one year ago on August 5, 2009, the Port of Newport signed the lease with NOAA to bring their Marine Operations Center – Pacific to Newport; and just one year later on August 5, 2010, the Port will begin tilting the walls in place for the new administration building. "We are excited and pleased with the project's progress and plan to finish on time and on budget," said Mann.

In anticipation of increased public interest, project information has recently been updated on the Port's web site (www.portofnewport.com) which now includes a Frequently Asked Questions page as well as an online comment form. Additional details about the JPA will be posted as they are finalized.

For more information about the project, contact General Manager Don Mann at the Port of Newport, 541-265-7758, or visit the Port's Web site at www.portofnewport.com. Comments can be submitted at anytime by emailing terminalproject@portofnewport.com.

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