



## MARINE TERMINALS TAKING EXTRAORDINARY STEPS TO KEEP CARGO FLOWING

The pandemic-related impacts on all parts of the supply chain have delayed the movement of cargo, causing backups at the nation’s largest ports. Shipping lines are deploying all available resources and also seeking ports outside of CA to deal with congestion. But several factors, including shortages of equipment and chassis needed to meet the unprecedented cargo demand, lack of railcar availability, and impact of the virus on workers are causing the backups throughout the supply chain. **To relieve the congestion, all aspects of the supply chain must work together and take steps to stabilize the flow of goods from the port of origin to their final destination.**



### Steps taken at marine terminals to stabilize the flow of goods

- Opened additional gates to allow more trucks inside terminals.
- Increased hours of operation to allow trucking companies greater nighttime and weekend access to terminals.
- Terminals have leased hundreds of acres of land outside the ports to create more room to ease congestion on dockside terminals.
- Launched new software and revised processes at several marine terminals to manage truck appointments and expedite the pick up and drop off of containers.

***“There is no quick short-term solution, it is highly unlikely we can avoid a repeat, and there is no one party to blame for the predicament apart from the pandemic itself.”***

**- Lars Jensen, CEO & Partner, SealIntelligence Consulting**

Source: [https://www.joc.com/maritime-news/supply-chain-strain-unavoidable-result-pandemic\\_20201214.html](https://www.joc.com/maritime-news/supply-chain-strain-unavoidable-result-pandemic_20201214.html)

### Factors contributing to supply chain congestion

Following a crash in import volumes in the spring of 2020, U.S. imports rose dramatically in the second half of the year resulting in a shortened, concentrated resupply period.

- **Shortages of key equipment** are affecting the ability to meet the unprecedented cargo demand.
- **Lack of railcar availability** is contributing to the inability to clear out containers.
- **Equipment sanitization** between shifts and operators is necessary to protect employees throughout the supply chain during the pandemic, but this critical activity is limiting the rate of equipment turnover.
- **COVID-19 cases** are affecting workers throughout the supply chain and mandatory quarantines are impacting the ability to handle the influx of goods at the ports, railroads, trucking companies, warehouses, and retail facilities.

## West Coast Trade Report

### December 2020 Import Traffic (compared to December 2019)

- Inbound loads through the five major U.S. West Coast ports saw a 22.2% increase
- The Port of Los Angeles recorded a 23.4%
- The Port of Long Beach posted a 25.6% gain
- The Port of Oakland reported an 11.0% increase
- Together the San Pedro Bay ports handled 24.4% more inbound loads, a total of +170,195 TEUs

