

**Brian Williams  
Deputy Mayor, City of Los Angeles**

**U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy's Southwest Regional Meeting  
Cabrillo Aquarium  
San Pedro, California  
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We're happy to have you all here with us in sunny environment here in Southern California. The Mayor this morning gave the State of the City address and was unable to be here. I'm happy to report to you that the state of the city is well, the beaches are still clean, that the traffic is still flowing, except on the 405, but that the state of the city is well. He thought it absolutely important that we have someone here today because he views what you do as an important component of what we'd like to do here Los Angeles.

L.A. is really known for its beautiful and Hollywood and the Internet, which is -- of course was created here, not in Tennessee as some would like to think. But I wonder if everyone realizes how important our beaches and ports are here in Los Angeles. I'd briefly like to give you a few facts about our ports. It's one of most significant and critical economic engines here in Southern California. Indeed, one of every 24 jobs in Southern California is somehow related to the port. Nearly \$10 billion in wages and almost \$1.5 billion in state and local tax revenue comes from the ports in Los Angeles in our local community. We've worked hard over the past few years to make sure it takes care of its most critical resources, that being the natural resource, the San Pedro Bay. And strict enforcement of the Los Angeles Stormwater Management Plan, the port has cleaned up the harbor making environment for sea lions, fish, and other creatures.

Now we follow the Stormwater Management Plan best practices here. The port has distilled stormwater and storm sectors to trap debris in storm drains from being released to the harbor. Nothing is released to the harbor without it being treated, according to most stringent standards of the management plan. With great opportunities we have in the port, we just expanded the port. We're going to do expansion of the port here. And many of you know we just opened a new training system from the port, which is downtown Los Angeles, the Alameda Corridor.

We also have a number of challenges. Two of those challenges have been the lack of water circulation in the San Pedro Bay and Cabrillo Beach. The port continues to work to study this problem to try to fix this problem. And we invite you while you're here to take a look at the problem to offer some suggestions we may be able to have.

We're absolutely delighted to have you here. The Mayor has asked me to tell you if there's anything you need while you're here, please just let us know. We're happy that you're here. We're looking forward to working with you. We recognize that our ocean is one of our most important resources. We embrace it and protect it and love it here.

Welcome, again, to Los Angeles.