



Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority

One Civic Plaza • Suite 650 • Carson • California 90745 • Tel (310) 233-7480 • Fax (310) 233-7483

ALAMEDA CORRIDOR, WORLD TRADE CENTER ASSOCIATION TO PROVIDE INTERNATIONAL TRADE SUPPORT AND JOB TRAINING

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

December 13, 2001

CONTACTS:

Alexander Kramer, (562) 495-7070

Phil Hampton, (562) 435-5551

LOS ANGELES COUNTY – Providing import-export business assistance and job training that will stimulate the regional economy, the agency building the rail cargo expressway and the World Trade Center Association Los Angeles-Long Beach announced Thursday that they have forged an alliance to help local businesses and individuals capitalize on international trade.

The Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority International Trade Development Program will provide one-on-one technical consulting to local companies. One of the special features of the program is the ability to assist both importers and exporters. Consultants will focus on helping companies identify new international market opportunities and clear hurdles in the import or export process, such as obtaining financing credit or reviewing freight logistics to enhance profitability. The goal is to support at least 25 local companies

In addition, the program will provide technical training and job skills specific to international trade, targeting the entry-level job seeker. Among international trade employees now in high demand are import/export clerk, freight forwarder administrator and document or letter-of-credit processor. The program is designed to help entry-level job seekers learn the key technical skills needed to get on a career track in international trade. The goal is to assist at least 20 residents.

The World Trade Center Association Los Angeles-Long Beach (WTCA), an affiliate of the Los Angeles County Economic Development Corporation (LAEDC) is managing the program. The Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA) is providing financial resources and guidance.

Outreach and recruitment for the six-month program is scheduled to begin in January, with one-on-one business consulting and training sessions for residents scheduled to begin in February. To be eligible for the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority International Trade Development Program, businesses must have offices in a community along the route of the Alameda Corridor.

Members of the ACTA Governing Board praised the program after receiving a presentation at Thursday's regularly scheduled meeting.

(MORE)

**Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority International Trade Development Program
2-2-2**

"This program is a good match for our goal of enhancing economic development in the region," said Long Beach City Councilman Frank Colonna, Chairman of the ACTA Governing Board. "With construction of the Alameda Corridor nearing completion and our job training and business outreach programs both meeting their goals, we are moving to a new phase with the international trade facilitation program -- providing training and consulting services so residents and businesses can participate in increasing international trade opportunities."

Los Angeles City Councilwoman Janice Hahn, Vice Chairwoman of the ACTA Governing Board, will help business in her district break into international trade. "The WTCA has extensive international contacts and resources to help companies identify and access new markets."

Said Lee Harrington, President and Chief Executive Officer of WTCA: "This program leverages the Alameda Corridor's community outreach and job training expertise and the trade association's business assistance expertise and extensive contacts in international trade to help stimulate the regional economy. Even in today's challenging economic environment, we still see international trade, both import and export, providing opportunities for Southern California businesses."

In the five-county Southern California region, there are some 470,000 people employed in the movement of international cargo, or approximately one of every 30 jobs, according to the LAEDC. Together, the ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles are the busiest port complex in the country, moving more than \$200 billion cargo across their wharves in 2000. Cargo container volumes doubled in the 1990s and are projected to triple by 2020.

ACTA -- a joint powers authority formed by the cities and ports of Long Beach and Los Angeles -- is building a 20-mile-long, grade-separated rail cargo expressway from the ports to the transcontinental rail yards near downtown Los Angeles. The \$2.4 billion Alameda Corridor will improve the efficiency of cargo movements by eliminating conflicts between freight trains and street traffic. The project is scheduled to open in April 2002.

The WTCA is dedicated to facilitating international trade by providing valued services to local and worldwide members, and supports successful international business development for middle market companies and service providers. The WTCA holds a leadership role in the global World Trade Centers Association, serving as its active Los Angeles County branch since 1986 and the recognized clearinghouse for international trade information and resources in the Los Angeles region.

News Media Contacts:

Phil Hampton, for the Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority, (562) 435-5551.

Alexander Kramer, World Trade Center Association Los Angeles-Long Beach, (562) 495-7070.

XXXXXXXXXXXX