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COUNCILWOMAN HAHN GAINS UNANIMOUS SUPPORT FOR FEDERAL EFFORT TO REDUCE SHIP POLLUTION

*City Council joins Councilwoman Hahn in support
of Maritime Pollution Protection Act*

LOS ANGELES — July 23, 2008 — The Los Angeles City Council, in a unanimous vote, joined Councilwoman Janice Hahn today to support federal efforts to impose strict limits on sulfur and other harmful emissions emitted by ships. The Maritime Pollution Prevention Act, H.R. 802 (Oberstar), was recently signed by the President. The bill authorizes the U.S. to join MARPOL Annex VI, an international treaty that will reduce air pollution created by large diesel-powered, ocean-going ships by requiring low-sulfur fuels.

The City of Los Angeles already subsidizes cleaner-burning fuel for ships when they are within 40 miles of the Port of Los Angeles. By joining the MARPOL Annex VI treaty, the U.S. will be able to regulate ship emissions when they are outside of this boundary, as well as at ports all over the nation. This will lead to an improvement of air quality in Southern California and beyond.

“We know that ships represent the single largest source of emissions at the Port of Los Angeles,” said Councilwoman Hahn. “We are making strides locally, but we still have a long way to go. While shippers may be voluntarily using low sulfur fuel here, they continue to burn dirty fuel outside our harbor and in most harbors around the world. The MARPOL treaty is an important step to secure a needed international solution.”

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