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Port of Port Angeles Focuses on Maintaining and Growing Jobs during COVID-19 Pandemic

Amid the recent devastating job losses across Washington State and the Olympic Peninsula, the Port of Port Angeles continues its mission to safely expand economic growth in Clallam County.

The Port has been working with employees and customers to ensure safe distancing and sanitation practices during the COVID-19 pandemic. After weeks of working through COVID-19 related questions and disruptions, Port of Port Angeles Executive Director Karen Goschen reiterated the Port's commitment: "In these uncertain times, the Port recognizes its vital role in creating and sustaining family wage jobs in Clallam County. After implementing new safety protocols, the Port is moving forward with several projects and initiatives to retain jobs and to bring new economic growth to our region. We hope these efforts will help ease the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our community and region."

These efforts include:

- Maintenance dredging to support increased vessel size at the Port's cargo terminal
- Commencing survey work connected to the Port's log yard stormwater control and treatment system
- Designing utility infrastructure to support existing and new hangars to increase business at Fairchild International Airport
- Permitting and designing for rehabilitation of the cofferdam barge facilities to support the domestic forest product industry
- Designing the Port Angeles Boat Haven fuel float to serve commercial, government and recreational boating
- Leasing Port facilities to accommodate the needs of the homeless during the pandemic
- Developing a rent relief program for tenants experiencing reduced revenues due to COVID-19
- Encouraging and facilitating safe, responsible recreation at Port marinas and continuing support for commercial and tribal fisheries
- Working with partners in the community to help our local businesses try to survive this crisis
- Working with Clallam County Emergency Operations Center and other public entities in their efforts to help our community

According to Port Commission President Steve Burke, "These efforts will position the Port to maintain existing jobs and increase future growth by giving us the ability to handle additional vessel, barge and airport traffic. These actions will help bring new economic opportunities to Clallam County as we move beyond the COVID-19 restrictions."

The Port has actively supported federal, state and local efforts to advocate for targeted assistance to retain jobs and businesses. Commission President Burke highlighted the essential role of the Port for maintaining employment by the Port's tenants and users: "The Port remains committed to supporting jobs and our existing tenants by providing quality marine and airport infrastructure to meet the needs of current and potential tenants. We are also working with individual tenants to address any unique needs they may have during the pandemic."

About the Port of Port Angeles:

The Port of Port Angeles is responsible for promoting and enhancing the economic vitality of Clallam County through business development and job creation and serves the community as both a public steward and an economically self-sustaining enterprise. This is the basis for all policy decisions made by the Port Commission, guided by specific values as defined in the Strategic Plan.

Learn more at www.portofpa.com

WE BRING PEOPLE, RESOURCES AND INDUSTRY TOGETHER TO FOSTER LIVING WAGE JOBS

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