



# Freight Planning Fact Sheet

## Port of Humboldt Bay

**Port Address** Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District  
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<http://www.humboldtport.org/portofhumboldtport/>

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The Port of Humboldt Bay (Port), located in Humboldt County (County), is California’s northernmost deep-water shipping port and the only port between San Francisco (258 miles south) and Coos Bay, Oregon (180 miles north).

The Port is managed by the Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation and Conservation District (District), a county-wide public local agency that focuses on three areas: the Harbor, recreation, and conservation. The District has the difficult task of balancing port activities with conservation, commercial fishing, and environmental protection requirements. Port revenue sources include Humboldt County property taxes, permits, fees, dredging surcharges, rents, and Tideland leases.

Forest products continue to dominate this Port, but a recent drop in trade (by more than 50%) has had a substantial impact on the Port. Humboldt Bay imports more than 90% of the gasoline and diesel used in the County and has the ability to accommodate Panama Canal-class (Panamax) vessels.



### PORT INFRASTRUCTURE

Harbor Entrance	48’ Deep
Shipping Channel	38’ Deep
Deepwater Berths	9

### PORT TRADE CHARACTERISTICS

Trade Partners	Imports	Exports
Canada	Logs	Logs
China	Petroleum	Wood chips
Pacific Rim		Lumber

### KEY PLANNING & PARTNER AGENCIES

- Humboldt County Association of Governments
- California Department of Fish and Game
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
- Cities of Eureka and Arcata

- County of Humboldt
- Bureau of Land Management
- North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA)
- U.S. Maritime Administration (MARAD)
- Humboldt Maritime Logistics (HML)
- West Coast Corridor Coalition (WCCC)

### MAJOR PORT PROJECTS / STUDIES

- Blue Coast Intermodal / West Coast Hub-Feeder Initiative – conduct a short-sea shipping market analysis on the M-5 Marine Highway Corridor along the coasts of Washington, Oregon, and California, including Humboldt Bay. (\$275,000 MARAD Grant)
- Port Access Enhancement Project – highway and freight rail access (\$258,000 TEA-21 Grant)
- Redwood Marine Terminal Feasibility Study, February 18, 2008

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## PLANNING DOCUMENTS

- Strategic Plan (2012-2016)
- Capital Improvement Plan (2011-2021)
- Humboldt County Regional Transportation Plan (2008)
- Humboldt Bay Management Plan (May 2007)
- Port of Humboldt Bay Revitalization Plan (2003)
- Long Term Financial Feasibility of the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Report (2002)

## MAJOR PORT ISSUES

- Small local market size - Humboldt County's small population and economic base generates little inbound freight for consumption
- Remote area with rugged terrain
- Limited connectivity issues with truck and rail
- Economic impacts of non-indigenous species
- Shoaling - Navigation hazards due to sediment deposition from the Eel River
- Cargo handling facilities in disrepair

## CALTRANS FOCUS AREAS

- Freight congestion on US 101
- Truck traffic deteriorating roads
- Heavy forest products industry trucks cause noise and vibrations along US 101 in Eureka, which functions as the city's main street

## SURFACE TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

### Access Routes

- US 101, SR 299, and SR 255
- Washington Street in Eureka (Route of intermodal significance)

## INTERMODAL CONNECTIONS

### Trucking Issues

Surface Transportation Assistance Act (STAA) truck length restrictions—Sections of US 101 and SR 299, including Richardson Grove and Buckhorn Summit, limit the length of trucks able to enter and leave Humboldt County.

### Trucking Projects

Caltrans realignment projects to accommodate STAA trucks include:

- Caltrans Richardson Grove Project on US 101
- Buckhorn Summit Project on CA 299 (Caltrans District 2 project affecting District 1)
- Realignment improvements to US 199 / SR 197

### Rail

North Coast Railroad Authority (NCRA) (Class I) owns the Northwestern Pacific (NWP) Railroad line, which historically served the Port, but has been out of service for more than 15+ years.

### Rail Issues

Restoration of NCRA freight rail north of Willits is problematic due to environmental constraints within the Eel River Canyon in Mendocino County. Since 1996, the line has been washed out at several points in the Eel River Canyon.

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## REFERENCES AND SOURCES

- Humboldt County Association of Governments: <http://www.hcaog.net/>
- Growth of California Ports Opportunities and Challenges, Report to Legislature, April 2007: [http://hydra.usc.edu/scehsc/web/Resources/Reports%20and%20Publications/CALMITSAC%20Report California%20Ports 4-2007.pdf](http://hydra.usc.edu/scehsc/web/Resources/Reports%20and%20Publications/CALMITSAC%20Report%20California%20Ports%204-2007.pdf)
- California Marine and Intermodal Transportation System Advisory Council (CALMITSAC): <http://threesquaresinternationalinc.com/calmitsac/>
- U.S. Department of Maritime Administration (MARAD): <http://www.marad.dot.gov/>
- California Air Resource Board and Business, Transportation and Housing (Goods Movement Action Plan): <http://www.arb.ca.gov/gmp/docs/gmap-1-11-07.pdf>
- Caltrans Office of Truck Services: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/hq/traffops/trucks/>
- North Coast Railroad Authority: <http://www.northcoastrailroad.org/index.html>
- Humboldt Maritime Logistics: [humboldtlogistics.com/](http://humboldtlogistics.com/)