



**R-21**

**Date:** February 1, 2005

**To:** Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

**From:** Councilmember Dan Baker, Second District *DB*  
Councilmember Frank Colonna, Third District *FC*  
Councilmember Tonia Reyes Uranga, Seventh District *TRU*

**Subject:** **AGENDA ITEM: Resolution for MARPOL**

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On January 18, 2005, the Board of Harbor Commissioners approved a resolution encouraging the U.S. Senate to ratify an international agreement that would lead to significant reductions of harmful air emissions from ocean-going vessels.

The International Convention for the prevention of Pollution from Ships, or MARPOL, is the main international convention and agreement covering the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes. It is a combination of two treaties adopted in 1973 and 1978 respectively and updated by amendments and through the years.

MARPOL's Annex VI –Prevention of Air Pollution from Ships, adopted in 1997, enters into force on May 19, 2005 and will set limits on sulfur oxide and nitrogen oxide emissions from ship exhaust and prohibits deliberate emissions of ozone oxide and emissions of ozone depleting substances. Annex VI calls for a global cap of 4.5 percent m/m on the sulfured content of fuel oil and calls on the International Maritime Organization, a United Nations agency, to monitor the worldwide sulfur content of fuel once the Protocol comes into force.

We encourage the City of Long Beach to join the Harbor Department in urging the U.S. Senate to the ratify Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships and to adopt this proposal in the City's 2005 Legislative Agenda.

**Suggested Action:** Request the City Attorney to prepare a Resolution supporting the ratification of Annex VI of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships

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