



## **REGIONAL INFORMATION BRIEF**

**Topic: Inland Ports**

**April 2001**



### **Ports in the Inland Empire**

The Center for Commercial Deployment of Transportation Technology (CCDOTT) is conducting a research program to further the technologies used in maritime transport. CCDOTT is a consortium of public, academic and private participants, major universities and recognized industry leaders in transportation planning and design. The intent of the program is to develop the next generation of agile ports that move the majority cargo storage and sorting away from the constrained waterfront to an area that is more available and less congested. In general, CCDOTT's objective is to reduce time and cost of commercial goods transport.

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### **A Need for Better Shipping Facilities**

Southern California is the most important port region in the world, with three major ports serving the Pacific Rim. The amount of cargo brought into the region by these seaports and by airports is expected to quadruple (increase 320%) over the next 25 years as international trade volumes double. At the same time goods movement traffic is expected to grow more than 30 percent (refer to graphic on page 2).

This increase in volume is led by a worldwide trend towards the "mega ship". These vessels carry upwards of 7000-8000 TEUs (twenty foot equivalent units). To give some idea of the enormity of a mega ship, one 7000 TEU will generate nine and half 9000 foot-long trains. The owner of these vessels want these ships unloaded and loaded as quickly as possible since sitting in the port (dwell time) or waiting at sea to get into the port, is extremely expensive. There will simply not be enough storage for capacity to keep up with the mega ships.

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