

Port of Oakland COVID-19 response enters new phase

May 18, 2020

EDITOR'S NOTE: Click **HERE** for Executive Director's video update.

Oakland, Calif. – May 18, 2020: It's time to address the financial impact of coronavirus, Port of Oakland Executive Director Danny Wan said today. In a widely distributed video, the Port executive said his organization is readying countermeasures to offset crippling revenue declines. His stated aim: keep the Port and its Oakland International Airport operational.

"We've taken a three-phase approach to combatting coronavirus," the Executive Director said during a taped Zoom interview posted on the Port's website, intranet and blog and sent to media worldwide. "First, we minimized the exposure of staff and the public to the coronavirus, then we assessed the impact on our operations and now, we're ready for phase three where we implement solutions to ensure financial sustainability."

According to the Executive Director, the Port anticipates reduced operating income for Fiscal Year 2020. It's projecting a financial loss in FY 2021. The cause: a 95 percent reduction in Airport passenger traffic, coupled with a milder downturn in Seaport cargo volume.

“Many businesses facing that kind of drop-off in activity would probably close down, but we can’t, we have to keep operating because we’re considered essential infrastructure,” Mr. Wan explained. “So, we’re looking at what else we must do.”

The Executive Director explained that the Port, unlike other public agencies, doesn’t receive tax funds. That means it finances operations solely from the revenue it generates. Business reversals at the Airport and Seaport have “put a hole in the budget,” Mr. Wan said.

Mr. Wan said the Port would respond with austerity measures that include:

- the suspension of hiring and travel;
- drastic curbs on discretionary spending and the use of contractors; and
- slashing capital improvement budgets.

Mr. Wan didn’t offer a timetable for business recovery, blaming the fast-changing nature of the coronavirus pandemic. He said if conditions worsen, further cost-cutting measures would follow.

The Executive Director said Airport and Seaport operations have continued uninterrupted throughout the pandemic, despite shelter-in-place restrictions. He credited employees for stepping up to an unprecedented challenge.

“The Port staff is responding beautifully,” Mr. Wan said. “I’m grateful that we’re working together to keep the Port of Oakland operating as an essential service.”

About the Port of Oakland

The Port of Oakland oversees the Oakland Seaport, Oakland International Airport, and nearly 20 miles of waterfront including Jack London Square. The Port’s 5-year strategic plan – Growth with Care – pairs business expansion with community benefits, envisioning more jobs and economic stimulus as the Port grows. Together with its business partners, the Port supports more than 84,000 jobs. Connect with the **Port of Oakland** and **Oakland International Airport** through Facebook, or with the Port on Twitter, YouTube, and at www.portofoakland.com.

Media Contacts

Mike Zampa
Port of Oakland
Communications Director
(510) 627-1565
mzampa@portoakland.com
[Back to All](#)

Marilyn Sandifur
Port of Oakland
Port Spokesperson
(510) 627-1193
msandifur@portoakland.com
[Media & Newsroom](#)

[Press Releases \(News\)](#)

[Archived Press Releases](#)

###

[Videos](#)

[Photos](#)

[Newsletter Signup](#)

[Contact Us](#)

Not sure who to contact or have a general question? Use our contact form to route your request

Contact Form