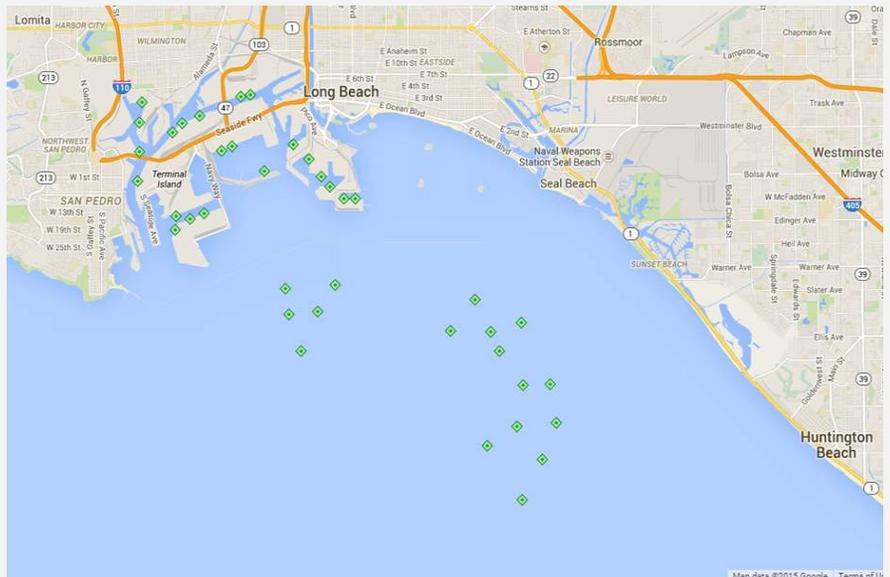


War of Words along the West Coast shores

With the West Coast Labor Negotiations at an impasse over the jurisdiction of the chassis maintenance and repair, both the ILWU and PMA have taken an unconventional approach to the dispute by using the public forum to make allegations against each other. The port congestion as the backdrop, the PMA charges that the continued dockworkers slowdowns is a tactic used to gain leverage on the bargaining table. The work slowdowns, reportedly, began nearly three months ago in Seattle and Tacoma, with the ports in Oakland, Los Angeles and Long Beach quickly following suit.

The allegations were quickly disputed by ILWU officials who retorted that the congestion was a direct result of the gridlock that was created in the decision by PMA to cut back on shifts during critical times. With hopes of rallying the public on their side, the ILWU planned a march to express their objection against the decision by PMA to cut night shifts. Expecting the participation of hundreds of long-shore workers and supporters, the march is set to take place on January 22, 2015 in San Pedro, CA and Tacoma, WA.



Vessels must resort to slow steaming in order to avoid high fuel costs as they wait to berth.

As the port congestion situation continues to deteriorate, there is less room for vessels to anchor along the shoreline as the number of vessels waiting for a berthing slot increases.

Please contact your local KWE branch if you have further inquiries.

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