



## ILWU and PMA Update

Contract negotiations between the ILWU and PMA have been recessed until January 5. The ILWU has not agreed to the PMA requested federal mediation as of yet. On New Year's Eve, the PMA notified the ILWU that beginning on January 2, employers on night shifts will dispatch only one longshore crew to work each vessel. An ILWU representative stated that a normal longshore crew, or gang, is comprised of two crane operators, one signalman, four dockworkers under the hook and eight UTR, or tractor drivers. Typically, three work gangs are dispatched on night shifts. The PMA stated that day shift dispatches will not be changed.

## China-Thailand Rail Link Construction

China has signed a memorandum of understanding with Thailand to build a 542 mile double track railway from Nong Khai (on the Laos border) to the Thai industrialized eastern seaboard. The development will link Laos with Thailand's container port of Laem Chabang. The new construction project has a valuation of over \$10 billion. China has also provisionally agreed with Laos to build a railway from Kunming through Laos. Additionally, China will develop an 82 mile rail link connecting the central province of Saraburi to Bangkok.

## Long Beach Container Storage Depot Opens

On Monday, December 29, the Port of Long Beach opened a temporary empty container storage depot to improve congestion issues at the nation's busiest port complex. The temporary storage site is scheduled to remain open through March 31, 2015. The depot will help alleviate space constraints at congested marine terminals and will also free up chassis' for use in the harbor area. In further efforts to relieve congestion, the port facilitated the introduction of 3,000 additional chassis' for use during periods of peak cargo demand.



Unitrans is a proud Roadrunner company

## China Production Slows

China is heading for its slowest full year economic expansion since 1990. A combination of excess factory capacity and falling prices for raw materials on global markets has pushed China's manufacturing sector into deflation. Although companies benefit from lower input prices, deflation makes it harder to repay loans. Data suggested that the decline was largely driven by softer domestic demand, as new export work rose for the eighth month in a row and at a slightly quicker rate than in November.

## Truck Turn Times Decline at Nhava Sheva Terminal

Over the weekend of December 27 and 28, the truck queue leading to the Nhava Sheva International Container Terminal extended nearly nine miles. The Container Freight Station Association of India said, "One round-trip is taking as much as 48 hours. Vehicles are taking on an average seven to eight hours to complete offloading/loading of containers inside NSICT." Increased volumes and a delayed infrastructure improvement project has contributed to massive congestion at the major Indian port throughout 2014.

## Links of the Week

### Low Sulfur Fuel Requirements Take Effect CBP Chicago Intercepts First-in-Nation Invasive Beetle

INTERNATIONAL HOLIDAYS	
*Holidays do not necessarily indicate close of business*	
January 2	Philippines, Taiwan, Thailand, UAE, Vietnam +
January 3	Egypt, Indonesia, Malaysia, UAE +
January 4	Bangladesh, Mali, Morocco, Pakistan +
January 5	Armenia, Dominican Republic, Fiji +
January 6	Austria, Italy, Puerto Rico, Spain +
January 7	Belarus, Cambodia, Egypt, Montenegro +
January 8	Armenia, Moldova, Montenegro, Swaziland +

