



Nor'wester newsletter

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NWSA welcomes fourth new service of 2021



THE NORTHWEST SEAPORT ALLIANCE

MSC's Santana service is the fourth new service calling the Northwest Seaport Alliance gateway in 2021. With the increase in import demand across the United States, ocean carriers are looking to circumvent congestion and recognize the opportunity that Tacoma and Seattle provide: fluid operations and robust rail networks.

Starting in May, MSC's Santana service will feature a new rotation to NWSA's Tacoma Harbor. The MSC Nerissa will be suspending its call to Los Angeles and instead call Tacoma's Husky Terminal. The service will have a Yantian – Shanghai – Tacoma – Yantian rotation.

"The Tacoma Harbor has welcomed many extra-loader MSC vessels over the past few months, providing relief from congestion at other ports and further showing that our gateway has the capacity to meet growing demand now and in the future." NWSA's co-chair and Port of Tacoma Commission President Dick Marzano stated. "We are thankful to our labor partners and the BNSF who have helped keep our gateway's operations smooth, productive and efficient. We look forward to moving more MSC cargo through this new service calling our gateway."

The new services calling the NWSA gateway are increasing both import and export opportunities across the Pacific Northwest region. MSC has shared their appreciation for NWSA's efficient operations stating that in the current environment, the NWSA gateway "has become the most fluid of all US west coast ports."

Connor nominated as ASA (CW)

President Biden has nominated Michael Connor to be the next [Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works](#) at the U.S. Department of Defense.

The ASA (CW) establishes policy direction and provides supervision of Department of the Army functions relating to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Civil Works program. PNWA typically works closely with the ASA's office to advocate for policies that support [our regional priorities](#).

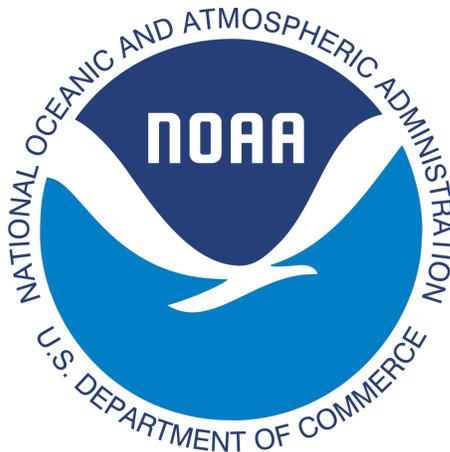


Connor is currently a partner with the law firm of Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Door, LLP, but the majority of his career has been in the public sector. He served as the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of the Interior from 2014-2017, Bureau of Reclamation Commissioner from 2009-2014, and Counsel to the U.S. Senate Energy and Natural Resource Committee from 2001-2009. He previously served in the Department of the Interior in the Solicitor's Office, and then as Director of the Secretary's Indian Water Rights Office.

Read [the White House news release on Connor's nomination](#) here.

Former Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission Executive Director Jaime Pinkham was earlier [appointed as Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary](#) of the Army for Civil Works.

OSU oceanography prof nominated as NOAA chief



President Biden has nominated Dr. Rick Spinrad to be the next Under Secretary for Oceans and Atmosphere and Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the Department of Commerce.

Dr. Spinrad is a Professor of Oceanography at Oregon State University, and a member of the Ocean Studies Board of the National Academies. He retired as Chief Scientist of NOAA in 2016. He was the VP for Research at OSU, and was the head of NOAA's Research Office and the

National Ocean Service. He co-led the White House Committee developing the nation's first set of ocean research priorities.

Dr. Spinrad was a Senior Executive with the US Navy, and was awarded the Distinguished Civilian Service Award (highest Navy civilian award), has held faculty appointments at three universities, and was President of Sea Tech, Inc. He also created the National Ocean Sciences Bowl, and was the U.S. representative to the United Nations' Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission.

Read the [White House news release on Dr. Spinrad's nomination](#) here.

AAPA seeking Government Relations Director

The American Association of Port Authorities is seeking candidates to replace Evan Chapman as Director of Government Relations. Chapman is leaving AAPA to serve as Legislative Director and Deputy Chief of Staff for Rep. Don McEachin (D, VA-4).

The Director of Government Relations will support AAPA's policy advocacy goals and have responsibility for the development, management, and execution of policy priorities in a mix of areas – depending on experience and skills - including, transportation, infrastructure, freight, security, safety, energy & environment, international trade, and others.



The position will support policy advocacy on these issues and others by building and maintaining relationships with key stakeholders in the Congress, within the Executive Branch, and will manage relationships with Member Port representatives, and other maritime and infrastructure related coalitions and associations. A successful candidate for this role must be willing to register as a federal lobbyist.

View the [complete job description and application instructions](#) here

AAPA seeks ports' crane purchase information



The American Association of Port Authorities is trying to address challenges faced by ports and their tenants in purchasing Buy America/Buy American compliant ship-to-shore cranes. Recent discussions revealed that a number of ports have planned for crane purchases, but can't identify companies willing to start production for one port's needs.

AAPA is conducting a study to determine U.S.-wide crane purchase plans to help manufacturers get an idea of the market. It's possible that this number could be big enough to get a manufacturer interested in starting a product line. Please provide your answers to the following 3 questions by May 7 to [AAPA Government Relations Director Jim Walker](#).

1. How many ship-to-shore cranes do you anticipate ordering in the next 5 years?
It would be helpful if you could break this down by:
 - Post-Panamax
 - Larger
 - Other (describe)

2. How many gantry cranes do you anticipate ordering in the next 5 years?

It would be helpful if you could break this down:

- Rail Mounted Gantry Cranes
- Rubber Tired Gantry Cranes

Once a total number is established based on responses to these questions, potential manufacturers might want to see the individual port requests that reach this total.

3. Would you be willing for your ports crane request numbers to be shared, if requested, by a crane manufacturer or Congress?

AAPA has talked to Congressional legislators that are interested in helping address this issue. Your responses will be used to illustrate the demand for this equipment as part of AAPA advocacy with Congressional interests and manufacturers.

T&I Committee requests \$3.5 billion to fund MTSERA

As part of a continuing effort to get Congress to appropriate funding for the emergency relief program authorized by the Maritime Transportation System Emergency Relief Act, House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Peter DeFazio and other committee members sent [a letter to appropriators](#) seeking \$3.5 billion for FY22.

MTSERA was signed into law a few months ago as part of the National Defense Authorization Act. The legislation instructs the Maritime Administration to stand up a program to flow funds to ports and other maritime interests during times of emergency, including for the COVID-19 pandemic. MARAD is not able to stand up the program until it is funded.



I-5 bridge program offers freight movement listening session



The Freight Movement Listening Session is a topic-specific listening session hosted by the [Interstate Bridge Replacement program](#).

The session will be held **Thursday, May 27, at 4 p.m. PDT.**

The goal of this listening session is to gather insights from community stakeholders involved with freight movement near, across, and under the Interstate Bridge using various modes of transportation (highway and marine). We will provide a program overview and ask participants to share their current experience and perspective on transporting freight through the program area.

Please [register for this listening session](#) here. If you need assistance registering for

this session (i.e., language interpretation or accessibility), please call 503-897-9219.

Reminder: 5/27 PNWA LCR infrastructure needs meeting

Please save the date for PNWA's next Lower Columbia River Infrastructure Needs Meeting:

Thursday, May 27, 2021

1- 3 p.m. PDT

Webex Meeting:

<https://usace1.webex.com/meet/tracie.l.williams>

The draft agenda can be found [here](#).

This informal gathering was established back in 2012 to allow for early identification of projects that benefit trade and transportation in the region. Support for jetty rehabilitation, establishment of additional stern buoys, work on anchorages, and the "[Our Working Rivers](#)" campaign emerged as a result.

Our last meeting was December 8, so there will be a lot to discuss, including jetties, turning basins, regulatory issues, and more. It will be a great time to review current activity, the outlook for the future, and plan for additional opportunities.

Please [RSVP to Dena Horton](#).

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