

October 27, 2026

Statement from the Pacific Maritime Association

The Pacific Maritime Association remains committed to reaching a fair agreement with ILWU Local 26 at the bargaining table, and we will continue to negotiate in good faith through the November 1 deadline and beyond if necessary.

Local 26 represents approximately 250 watchmen who provide security at six container terminals at the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. While its members make up about 2% of the ILWU workforce at the ports, they work at terminals that handle more than half of the ports' cargo, including roughly 85% at Long Beach and 33% at Los Angeles. Longshore workers, marine clerks and other ILWU members work under a separate coastwide contract and are not party to this dispute. However, they are not expected to cross any Local 26 picket line, which could halt vessel, yard and gate operations at the affected terminals.

PMA and Local 26 have met regularly for more than a year, since the prior agreement expired in July 2025, and talks are continuing with the assistance of the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service. To date, every tentative agreement reached has been on a Union proposal. None of the Employers' proposals have been resolved, and significant differences remain.

PMA has put a strong economic package on the table, including meaningful wage increases and pension improvements over the life of the agreement. Watchmen working full-time currently earn an average of more than \$170,000 a year, along with fully employer-paid healthcare and a generous pension.

A timely agreement matters not only to the parties at the table, but to the entire Southern California supply chain and to the local, state and national economies that depend on it. We urge Local 26 to work with us to reach an agreement that avoids a disruption at the nation's two busiest ports.

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