



Los Angeles Area
Chamber of Commerce

RALPH HICKS
DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
PORT OF LOS ANGELES

Ralph Hicks is the director of economic development for the Port of Los Angeles, the busiest containerport in the nation, which serves as a major U.S. gateway with the neighboring Port of Long Beach, handling 40% of the nation's waterborne goods.

Appointed to the newly created post in February 2008, Hicks will help shape a variety of crucial development projects at the Port that will increase business, employment and training opportunities, as well as community-oriented, waterfront redevelopment. The latter will include the San Pedro Waterfront Project, which will create enhanced public access and open space together with a variety of development opportunities throughout 400 acres of Port property.

Hicks spent 17 years at the San Diego Unified Port District, where he last served as director of land use and planning since 1997. Known for his collaborative approach, he was the team leader for master-planning the San Diego Bay redevelopment, and led several complex urban redevelopment efforts, including the North and South Embarcadero redevelopment and Chula Vista's Bayfront Master Plan.

Hicks has 25 years experience in moving complex development projects through both federal and state regulatory systems including aiding in securing development rights for a 1,700-mile oil pipeline constructed from California to Texas. Based on his cooperative and innovative style of management, he has received awards for community outreach and strategic planning initiatives.

In both his public and private practice experience, Hicks has supervised large groups of planning, legal, economic, and environmental professionals. He has been a board member of several local, state and international organizations and has been published in numerous professional journals.

Hicks believes in providing better government through community involvement and transparent decision-making. He received his bachelor's degree in Law and Society from the University of California at Santa Barbara, and his J.D. from the University of San Francisco School of Law.