

Tech expert to head agency luring green firms to Harbor Area

By Art Marroquin Staff Writer

Posted: 10/21/2009 07:19:02 PM PDT

A longtime expert in emerging technologies will head up a nonprofit agency tasked with luring green technology businesses to the Harbor Area, officials announced Wednesday.

Beginning next month, Jeff Milanette will step into his new role as executive director of the San Pedro Bay Port Technologies Development Center, which aims to attract and support companies that will help clean up the way business is done at the Port of Los Angeles.

"For me, transportation technologies that can be developed and serve the local business is a great opportunity," Milanette said. "I'm tremendously excited to meet the local entrepreneurs to see what we can do."

Milanette has two decades of experience in management consulting and technology business startups. Most recently, he was president of Innovative Partners, a consulting firm in New Jersey.

He has a bachelor's degree from the U.S. Naval Academy and an MBA from George Washington University.

The technology center is expected to open shop in downtown San Pedro within the next few months, followed by an industrial complex in Wilmington where businesses can start up operations. The project is listed among Los Angeles Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's "Green Tech L.A." initiatives designed to clean the air and water citywide.

"The San Pedro Bay Technologies Development Center is predicated on the commercial development and global marketing of the cutting-edge green technologies that are making our port a world leader in environmental stewardship," Geraldine Knatz, executive director of the Port of Los Angeles, said during her State of the Port address, held at the Crowne Plaza hotel in San Pedro.

The public-private venture is expected to operate on a \$1.75 million annual budget.

The project was recently awarded a \$250,000 federal grant and received an additional \$125,000 worth of corporate sponsorships, with an additional \$75,000 anticipated soon, according to Camilla Townsend, director of the San Pedro Chamber of Commerce.

"Our chamber has never in the past done anything proactive in terms of major business development and it's about time we work with the port to develop businesses that relate to our major economic force," said Townsend, a former harbor commissioner.

"It's got so many benefits because it also

Advertisement



Send flowers for any occasion
Bouquets \$19.99
from **19**^{+s/h}
ProFlowers®

Order ONLY at
proflowers.com/happy
or call 1-877-888-0688

addresses environmental concerns and is critical in making the greening of the port happen."

art.marroquin@dailybreeze.com

Advertisement



Send flowers for any occasion
Bouquets \$19.99
from **19**^{+s/h}
ProFlowers®

Order ONLY at
proflowers.com/happy
or call 1-877-888-0688