

Bio - Kristin Decas

CEO & Port Director
Port of Hueneme, California



A Leader in Maritime-based Trade, Transportation and Infrastructure

A proven leader, Kristin Decas repeatedly demonstrates her ability to build vision and implement strategy through open, collaborative processes that foster results.

Since beginning her tenure with the Port of Hueneme in February 2012, the Port has realized several successes. Tonnage totals have grown every year since her arrival from 1.3 million tons for FY 2012 to over 1.575 million metric tons in 2015 marking the Port's strongest sustained trade years since its inception in 1937. The Port's revenues have climbed 30.1% since Kristin took the helm. Kristin championed the first annual Port Banana Festival, drawing over 10,000 visitors to the Port. Port of Hueneme related activities generate \$1.5 billion in annual economic impact and create more than 13,600 direct, indirect, induced and influenced jobs. Most recent successes include securing a \$12.3 million Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) grant and a \$1.5 million Economic Development Administration (EDA) grant. Also under her leadership the Port will be advancing a harbor deepening project in concert with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Prior to serving for the Port of Hueneme, Kristin served as CEO and Port Director for the Port of New Bedford, MA, the nation's number one value fishing port. Under her leadership the Port realized significant growth in port development, cruise and recreational boating activity.

Kristin is recognized by Trade Administration officials for her impressive work in promoting economic development through international trade promotion, and for her service on several federal level shipping and port committees. Kristin was awarded high-profile appointments by the U.S. Department of Transportation to both the National Freight Advisory Committee (NFAC) and the U.S. Marine Transportation System National Advisory Council (MTSNAC). Ms. Decas is the current President of the California Association of Port Authorities (CAPA) representing California's 11 deep water ports, providing educational leadership and advocacy on issues related to transportation, trade, the environment, land use, energy and other subjects effecting port operations. In 2015 Kristin served as national Chairperson of the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), a trade association representing more than 130 public port authorities in the US, Canada, the Caribbean and Latin America.

Kristin was the first woman to run both the Port of New Bedford in its 50 year history and the Port of Hueneme in its 78 year history. She was the 4th woman to chair the Association of American Port Authorities in its 103 years. Kristin also supports her community by serving on the Dignity Health Ventura County Community Board and the Habit for Humanity Ventura County Advisory Board. Kristin was awarded Woman of the Year by the Oxnard Chamber of Commerce in 2014, the Pacific Coast Business Times Editor's Choice Award in 2015 and was among the Pacific Coast Business Times' Top 50 Women in Business in 2016 and 2017. Kristin also made the list for Pacific Coast Business Times first 2017 report of their "Who's Who" in Business Leadership. Kristin has been recognized by World Wide Branding as a Top Female Executive in her industry in July 2017 she was awarded the International Association of Top Professionals Top Port Director of the Year. Most recently she was named Maritime Executive of the Year at the Green Shipping Summit USA.

She lives in Oxnard, CA with her husband and is the proud mother of two daughters.
