



## News Release

# Port Awarded Nearly \$1M in ARRA Port Security Grants

*Funds will construct state-of-the-art facility for port emergency response needs*

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

September 24, 2009

The Port Authority of Guam has been awarded \$910,594 in federal American Reinvestment and Recovery Act through the Port Security Grant Program which will be used to better prepare the agency for response during times of emergency and natural disasters.

Earlier this year, the Port Authority submitted its grant application for \$910,594 and competed with other states and territories for the funding. The funding will be used to construct a new Maritime and Port Security Operations Center and to purchase all furniture and office equipment needed for the facility along with a back-up power system.

“This is another example of how the Port is aggressively moving forward with plans to modernize our facility and prepare for the future including times of emergency and natural disasters,” said Port General Manager Glenn A. Leon Guerrero. “These funds will be used to build our new state-of-the-art Maritime and Port Security Operations Center which will ensure that the commercial sea port remains the lifeline to our community in times of disaster.”

The new Maritime and Port Security Operations Center will now give the Port Authority of Guam a single nerve center that will ensure a timely, coordinated response by all port and maritime personnel who will then coordinate their efforts with the overall Guam Emergency Operations Center at Civil Defense.

“This grant award comes at the most opportune time as the Port begins its modernization program,” Leon Guerrero said. “The completion of the Maritime and Port Security Operations Center will result in the construction of a modern facility that will serve the needs of our community and will assist our efforts to continue the uninterrupted flow of goods to our people during times of emergency.”

The funding comes in the midst of the Port’s Modernization Program, which calls for more than \$200 Million in upgrades to the facility. Lawmakers recently gave final approval to the Port’s updated Master Plan and it was signed into law by Governor Felix P. Camacho. The Port has submitted an application for \$49.7 in ARRA Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) federal grants and \$50 Million in USDA funding for the first phase of the Modernization Program. Just last week the U.S. government granted the agency its request for Strategic Designation Status.

“This new Maritime and Port Security Operations Center will fall in line with our plans to modernize our Port and transform the commercial sea port into a world-class facility,” Leon Guerrero said.

The new facility also will house all the new port security systems that have been funded through \$2.6 Million in federal Homeland Security/FEMA grants awarded to the agency earlier this year.

**For more information, please contact Port Marketing Administrator Bernadette Meno at (671) 477-5931 ext. 300 or via email at [bmeno@portguam.com](mailto:bmeno@portguam.com) or you can visit the port website at [www.portguam.com](http://www.portguam.com)**

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