

ILWU Workers Threaten Job Action

The Los Angeles-Long Beach Harbor Employers Association said late Tuesday the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 63 Office Clerical Unit (OCU) has threatened a job action, just days before a contract expiration date.

The employer group said it began negotiations on April 19 with the union for new contracts for 600 clerical workers who provide customer service and other support for cargo movement operations of the companies at the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach. Each of the 14 terminal operating and steamship line companies has a separate contract with the union.

The contracts expire on June 30, yet the OCU has apparently been unwilling or unavailable to meet for more than 20 of the bargaining days over the last 10 weeks.

OCU has now threatened a job action, which in the past has included work stoppages.

Stephen Berry, lead negotiator for employers, said the union has not indicated explicitly what kind of job action it might take. But he said in the past, workers have picketed one or more employers at a time, and when that happens, longshoremen and clerks refuse to cross picket lines, shutting down individual terminals.

We will post updated information as we hear it.