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Contact:
Alice Walton
alice@ek-sunkin.com
(310) 732-7900

Cal Cartage to Leave Wilmington Warehouse Facility

WILMINGTON —Cal Cartage announced Wednesday that after more than five decades of operations at its Wilmington warehouse facility, the company has been left with no option but to close the warehouse in July 2019 as a result of the failure to renew the company's lease agreement. That failure is a direct result of the strategy undertaken by the Teamsters to spread misinformation and untrue statements about Cal Cartage as part of its continued effort to organize Cal Cartage's Wilmington employees, despite the employees overwhelmingly voting against unionization. The Teamsters prevented a negotiated lease despite Cal Cartage's willingness to agree to allow the employees to once again vote on whether to unionize.

In a settlement that will be considered by the Harbor Commission at its meeting on January 24, Cal Cartage will have six months from the time the settlement agreement is signed by the Harbor Commission to wind down its operations at the Wilmington warehouse facility. Under the negotiated settlement terms, the company will pay severance to employees who will lose their jobs in order to help support them and their families as they look for new jobs.

"This is a very sad day for Cal Cartage, our employees, our customers and the Wilmington community," said Sid Brown, CEO of NFI, Cal Cartage's corporate parent. "We have been fighting, with the help of our employees, for the past four months to negotiate a deal to keep this facility open long-term. This is not the outcome we wanted. Because of the Teamsters' efforts, we now have been left with no other option but to shut down the Wilmington operation."

It is Cal Cartage's goal to retain as many valuable and dedicated employees as possible. The company will also work with customers in an effort to transfer their operations to other company warehouses in the region.

In September 2018, the Board of Harbor Commissioners unanimously approved a permit for the continued operation of the Wilmington facility. However, the Los Angeles City Council sent the permit back to port officials for continued negotiations, which were ultimately unsuccessful because of the Teamsters' continued efforts to organize the employees at the Wilmington facility despite the employees overwhelmingly voting against unionization.

Since the 1960s, some of the country's largest retailers have trusted Cal Cartage to provide crucial transloading services for their goods out of the Wilmington facility.

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