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Port of Los Angeles Streamlines Budgeting via Oracle Hyperion

Port of Los Angeles, Los Angeles, CA

The City of Los Angeles Harbor Department, formally known as the Port of LA (POLA), is the busiest cruise center on the west coast. POLA encompasses over 7,500 acres, with over 43 miles of waterfront.

- Busiest container port in the US, 8th busiest in the world
- Serves over 90 shipping and cruise lines with 26 cargo terminals

Oracle Technologies

- Hyperion Public Sector Planning and Budgeting
- Hyperion Planning Plus
- Hyperion Financial Data Quality Management Adapter Suite

Services Provided

- Shortened data reconciliation by 60%
- Shortened closing and planning cycle by 25%
- Achieved control of data creation, modification, and synchronization by Financials
- Reduced use of email, calls, and offline spreadsheets by fully leveraging workflow and approval features
- Produced quality reports and budget books
- Achieved one system, with a single source of truth

"I am appreciative of the dedication, patience, and hard work your project team provided throughout the process, especially their ability to work with a diverse staff through the many challenges we faced. We have been able to streamline many of our processes and reached levels of efficiency that we had hoped for and expected. We have you and your staff to thank for the professionalism and commitment in successfully completing this critical project that has moved the financial systems of the Port of Los Angeles into the 21st century."

Karl K.Y. Pan, Chief Financial Officer

Business Needs

Prior to installing the Hyperion budgeting solution, POLA had a number of process bottlenecks in its budget and planning process: There was no automated integration between General Ledger (GL) and Budget data, and no synchronization between GL Accounts and Organizations, with GL requiring time-consuming reconciliation. The position transfers across divisions were inconsistent and time-consuming, and figuring out position allocations across divisions and programs was a manual and cumbersome process. Regular tasks, such as calculating and transferring salary and benefit numbers to line items, and budget book generation, lacked efficiency and effectiveness. Additionally, there was no central repository to capture supporting and appropriation details. POLA had limited financial reporting facilities, with a long cycle for data reconciliation.

POLA desired an incorporation of target-based budgeting and an ability to share information with its divisions. The budget submittal and approval process would be automated, with automatic freezing of submitted budget worksheets. Divisions would be able to enter all requested information into one system. The mass update of all position/employee salary or benefit information would be available across all divisions.

Services & Benefits

AST implemented Hyperion Public Sector Planning and Budgeting and provided real-time integration with Oracle GL to push-pull data into Hyperion planning, keeping all chart of account segments synchronized and available in real time. This included a flexible workforce budgeting model that supports budgeting by position, employee, or a combination of the two. It also supports Human Resources processes, with the import of baseline data from human resource systems, and an ability to modify this data as part of the budgeting process. A variety of salary and non-salary components of compensation are supported, including step-based, rate-based, and value-based computations of salary. Features such as position transfer, termination, approval, and cost center allocation are supported, in conjunction with source systems. It also supports the ongoing budget revision and maintenance process.

As Hyperion Planning is a centralized, Microsoft Excel- and Web-based planning, budgeting and forecasting application, all the annotations, supporting details, and appropriations are centralized and can be accessed at any time. With the Hyperion Financial Reporting tool, POLA's requirement for simple-to-complex budget reporting, including a Budget Book, was fulfilled. Business rules and data validation were implemented to ensure data quality and standards, as well as establishing data governance processes, audit capabilities, and reporting.

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