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## Press Release

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### KIA VEHICLES ARRIVE AT PORT OF OLYMPIA

The 660-foot vessel *Morning Meridian* arrived at the Port of Olympia this morning to begin unloading 3,924 Kia vehicles shipped from the port of Mokpo, South Korea. About 140 longshore workers will be unloading the vehicles today and throughout the night. The vessel is expected to depart Monday, July 9.

Manufactured in South Korea, the vehicles are normally unloaded and staged at the Port of Tacoma. However, due to increased Kia production to meet growing demand, the Port of Tacoma was temporarily unable to handle this shipment

Eight models of Kias are being unloaded, including the Rio, Sedona, Spectra, Optima, Amanti, Sportage, Rondo and Sorento. The vehicles will be stored at the Port's marine terminal prior to movement to Tacoma where they will be processed for distribution to dealerships.

"In the spirit of partnership with the Port of Tacoma, we are pleased to be able to provide a solution to this temporary terminal capacity issue," said Kari Qvigstad, the Port's Director of Marketing & Business Development.

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#### **About the Port of Olympia**

The southernmost deepwater port on Puget Sound, the Port of Olympia is Thurston County's partner in economic opportunity. The Port owns and operates a diversified international shipping terminal, an established niche facility that handles a range of breakbulk and project cargoes. The Port also owns and operates a strategically located regional airport, a vibrant 656-slip recreational marina and boat haulout/repair facility, and a thriving real estate division. A community port, it generates an estimated 2,600 jobs in Thurston County and indirectly over 5,000 jobs in Washington State.