

St. Matthew Assurance Stake's Claim to South American Frontier

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The first Tribal Insurance Company organized in the Modoc Nation has expanded its reach beyond the United States. In 2019, St. Matthew Assurance Limited (“SMA”) acquired Hacienda Castilla, a large property in the Atacama Region along with the Copiaport-e Operaciones Maritimas SpA company. Copiaport-e Operaciones Maritimas SpA has since finished and submitted its environmental impact study to the Chilean public agency Servicio Evaluación Ambiental (“SEA”) for the Copiaport-e port project located in Punta Cachos. This submission marks the beginning of a wondrous journey from the plains of Oklahoma to the coastal desert landscape of Region III, Chile.

Nicholas Winters, the President of Copiaport-e Operaciones Maritimas SpA, has a long-term vision that compliments existing development in harmony with the local communities with special attention to environmental responsibility. Mr. Winters highlights that since SMA’s acquisition, a complete assessment of the comments made by the citizens, technicians and authorities was carried out. “We took note of those valuable concerns and deepened our approach to generating improved solutions to building and operating methodologies. Today we are proud to say that the Copiaport-e project will mitigate environmental risk and reduce environmental impact.” The new plan submitted today is the direct result of addressing and implementing concerns from local stakeholders and communities,” said Mr. Winters.

While much of the new plan relies on the fundamentals of previous work, it focuses on the construction and operation of two maritime terminals that will handle clean bulk (grains) and general cargo (multi-purpose terminal). The Punta Cachos peninsula is ideally and strategically located on the Copiapó coastal area which will allow for modern infrastructure, clean and efficient, low-emission technology; including cargo handling equipment, cranes and yard equipment powered with clean energy. We do not envision the port handling cargo with potential contaminants, such as coal, oil or toxic chemicals.

Our hope is that this project will serve as a platform to broaden further development of the region and country by attracting and promoting other complimentary businesses and industry which need efficient and reliable ocean transport, thereby supporting and diversifying the Atacama economy heretofore dependent on the mining industry. In fact, once operational, the project contemplates 1,600 full-time staff and ten times as many supporting or indirect roles.

The Copiaport-e project follows the recommendations of the World Bank for the development of modern and efficient infrastructure. It also prioritizes renewable energy sources and is congruent with local land planning guidelines. At the same time, it will meet Chilean governmental economic diversification goals.

St. Matthew is grateful for the work of its team of dedicated South American professionals advising and managing the Copiaport-e Operaciones Maritimas SpA project; and to the Government of Chile for its receptive approach to the environmental application. We believe this project will be a game-changer for this region of Chile and for importers and exporters in the Southern cone of the South American continent.

- For more information, please send inquiries to info@stmatthewgroup.net

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