

CORPS SETS BAYPORT DEIS RELEASE SCHEDULE

The US Army Corps of Engineers has announced it will release the Bayport Container Port Facility Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on August 1, 2001, with workshops to follow on August 7 and August 24, and the DEIS hearing set for September 11. According to the Corps' schedule, the comment period will close on October 31, 2001.

The position of Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association (GBCPA) is that an August 1, 2001, release date is unreasonable since so many citizens are out of town, and that the DEIS should be released no sooner than September 1, 2001. GBCPA will also lobby for a comment period of no fewer than 180 days, given the incredible volume of data, which must be evaluated and commented upon. Remember, the Corps, in conjunction with the Port of Houston Authority's paid contractor, has had about 3 years to assemble this document. No one outside the process will have an opportunity for review until the formal release date.

**Please voice your support for changes to the DEIS comment process.
Remember the incredible turnout for the Bayport Scoping Meeting in August 1999.
Keep the momentum going.
Make your voice heard NOW on this important issue!
Watch for the final DEIS meeting notice and plan to attend.
The larger the turnout—the greater the impact.**

US Army Corps of Engineers

Mr. Mark King, Bayport Project Manager, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, TX 77553-1229, 409-766-3991, 409-766-3931 (fax)
Col. Nicholas Buechler, Corps of Engineers, Comdr. Galveston Dist., 2000 Fort Point Rd., Galveston, TX 77550, 409-766-3002
Dr. Joseph W. Westphal, Acting Secretary of the Army, 108 Army Pentagon, Washington, D.C. 20314-1000

Visit the Corps' website: www.swg.usace.army.mil/reg/pha/pha.htm

All members of Harris County Commissioners Court

1001 Preston, 9th Floor, Houston, TX 77002
County Judge Robert Eckels, 713-755-4077 Commissioner Jim Fontenot, 713-755-6220
Commissioner El Franco Lee, 713-755-6111 Commissioner Steve Radack, 713-755-6306
Commissioner Jerry Eversol, 713-755-6444

U.S. Congressman

Rep. Ken Bentsen, 101 East Southmore, Suite 810, Pasadena, TX, 77502-1296, 713-473-4334
Rep. Nick Lampson, 1350 NASA Rd. One, Suite 224, Houston, TX 77058, 281-333-4884

State Senators and Representatives

State Sen. Mike Jackson, 1109 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, TX 77504, 713-948-0111
State Rep. John Davis, 1350 NASA Rd. One, Suite 212, Houston, TX 77058, 281-333-1350
State Rep. Rick Noriega, 2900 Woodridge, Suite 305, Houston, TX 77087, 713-649-6563
State Rep. Robert Talton, 3622 Fairmont Parkway, Pasadena, TX 77504, 713-472-0539

FUNDRAISING FUN IN KEMAH ... Mark June 14th on your calendar

**Toucan Alley, 609 Bradford, Kemah
June 14, 3:00 to 9:00 p.m.**

Dine at Luigi's Ristorante Italiano
Enjoy live music at the new tropical courtyard – Joanna
Gibson and others will be entertaining
Browse through specialty shops whose merchants will rebate
10-20% of their sales to GBCPA.
Thanks to GBCPA Boardmember and
Toucan Alley owner Elain Douglass for
Providing this wonderful opportunity.

GBCPA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING ... And June 18th as well

**Seabrook Methodist Church – Ed White Youth Center
3rd Street at Highway 146, Seabrook
June 18th, 7:00 p.m.
Jim Blackburn, GBCPA Chair
Terri Morgan, noted eco-theologian, Dallas, TX**

**COME LEARN HOW YOU CAN
EFFECTIVELY JOIN THE BAYPORT
BATTLE**

REPORTS ON MAKING WAVES

COMMUNITIES BOW OUT OF THE CAG To Escape Being Co-opted on Mitigation

The communities of Shoreacres, Taylor Lake Village, Seabrook, El Lago, and El Jardin withdrew from the Community Advisory Committee (CAG) to the Port of Houston in March. Some 18 months ago the Port of Houston Authority (PHA) created the CAG to obtain community input on the proposed Bayport Container Facility and its impacts to the bay and bayside communities. Now that only one citizen representative remains on the CAG--a city councilperson from La Porte--the Port has at least temporarily suspended the CAG meetings. The remaining members of the CAG are largely associates and friends of the Port: representatives of industry groups, port constituencies, and other business interests.

The five communities withdrew from the CAG because of concerns that, at the Port's direction, **the body had become focused only on mitigating Bayport**, rather than evaluation of alternate sites as well. By the agreed mission statement, the PHA-CAG recommendations were not to be interpreted as endorsement of **any** proposed facility; however, the PHA has been quick to offer CAG meeting notes as evidence of consensus building with the communities while the communities clearly were **not** in agreement with CAG "findings". A mitigation plan with input from local communities may influence the Corps of Engineers into issuing a permit for this highly inappropriate location. GBCPA itself withdrew from the CAG about a year before, likewise dismayed at port manipulation of the CAG's agenda.

TRAFFIC STUDIES ASTONISH RECORDERS Volunteers Savor the Fragrance of Diesel Exhaust

Who would have thought sitting in a deck chair out on a weedy lot alongside Barbour's Cut Boulevard and watching 18-wheelers rumble by would be some people's contribution to the fight against a container terminal at Bayport? Community organization works in mysterious ways! The effort was a tightly programmed segment of GBCPA's transportation studies. It was illuminating and appalling for the watchers.

In the first phase of gathering data, 18 GBCPA volunteers counted all traffic (cars and trucks) on Barbour's Cut Boulevard for a full day. The truck traffic alone, inbound and outbound, totaled an incredible 5,660 vehicles. That many trucks in a 13-hour period average out at 430 per hour, or seven per minute, or one every ten seconds.

The roar and fumes of the constant stream of trucks were nearly overwhelming--and Bayport truck volumes would be

substantially higher. It's not nearly as hard to imagine what 7,000 trucks (or 14,000 truck trips) per day would be like after you've seen hundreds an hour going in and out of Barbour's Cut. Many thanks to all the volunteer truck watchers, some of who have also been train watchers.

GBCPA has hired Lee Engineering from Dallas to project traffic impacts from the proposed Bayport Container Terminal. The GBCPA analysis will be completed prior to release of the DEIS and will be used to assess the reasonableness of the traffic evaluation conducted by the Corps of Engineers' consultants. Our studies cover the impact of Bayport on Port Road, Todville Road, SH 146, Fairmont Parkway, Red Bluff Road, Bay Area Boulevard, Genoa-Red Bluff Road, and others.

LEGISLATIVE REVIEW COMMITTEE TACKLES PHA ACCOUNTABILITY PROBLEMS Road Trips to Austin

Our committee members spent many hours tracking all legislation pertaining to PHA expansion, right-of-way acquisition, property condemnation, and other bills related to investigation and oversight of PHA activities, especially Sunset Review and Promotion & Development Fund abuses. Karen Laake, Mary Beth Maher and Larry Tobin get a special mention for their ceaseless work on this effort.

Many thanks to all for the incredible number letters written in support of the proposed PHA Sunset Legislation sponsored by State Reps. John Davis and Rick Noriega and State Sen. Mike Jackson. Although this effort was not successful in the current

legislative session, Texas State legislators certainly were inundated with faxes, phone calls, email and snail mail, demonstrating considerable community support for more stringent oversight of all PHA activities, especially expenditure of taxpayer funds.

Another big thanks you to the GBCPA members who made several trips to Austin to work with area legislators on pending PHA legislation. Six committed souls made one rainy trip to testify on behalf of Rep. Davis' bill regarding complete auditing of all PHA accounts. As of this writing, this legislation looks assured of passage.

GET MAD - MAKE WAVES!!!

GBCPA Newsletter May 2001

TIME COMING TO STAND UP AND FIGHT TYRANNY

by Jim Blackburn

In the next six months, the fight against Bayport will begin in earnest. Simply stated, if you are concerned about the future quality of life in the southeast Texas area, you need to stand up and be counted. Bayport can be defeated, but it is going to take all of us to do it.

The fight against Bayport is the type of struggle that led to the formation of the United States – the fight against tyranny. Here, we have the tyranny of the Port of Houston Authority (PHA), fostered by closed-door meetings, insider dealing, and big money engineering and construction contracts. The answer to tyranny is to stand and fight. Tyrants retreat in the face of committed opposition.

The unfortunate truth of the matter is that we live in a community whose leadership does not value “quality of life.” Politicians who do not value residential quality of life dominate the Houston region. Locally, we are lucky to have John Davis, Rick Noriega and Mike Jackson and others whom are standing up and fighting for our communities. Yet, if we are to prevail, we are going to have to stand and fight.

The proposed Bayport container port is poorly planned and cannot achieve economic viability. The Port of Houston Authority has failed to solve transportation problems associated with Bayport. Their amended permit application shows an at-grade rail crossing on SH 146 just north of Red Bluff. In fact, at-grade crossings cannot occur across a state highway – they are illegal. During the first phase of development, trucks entering SH 146 from the north make a left turn across the highway and across Port Road. All of this is in defiance of motorist and industry needs, and emergency response requirements. This is but one example of the poor transportation planning associated with Bayport. It is transportation tyranny.

Bayport is being proposed in an area that Friendswood Development Company represented would not be developed for industrial purposes. The deepwater channel at Bayport was designed to provide the industries in the Bayport complex with barge and tanker transport. This deepwater channel was not originally intended to host a huge container facility. Now PHA has indicated last minute amendments to their permit application requesting widening the Bayport Cut by an additional 50 feet along the south shore. This usage is contrary to the promises made by Friendswood and Exxon. It is the tyranny of failed promises.

According to our land use expert Peter Brown, if the Port of Houston Authority’s project is permitted, the residential integrity of the western shoreline of Galveston Bay will be destroyed. Portions of Shoreacres, LaPorte, Pasadena and Seabrook near “ground zero” will become undesirable living areas and will decline over time. Taylor Lake Village, El Lago, Clear Lake and portions of Pasadena, Deer Park and La Porte will be heavily impacted by the thousands of eighteen-wheelers that are projected to arrive and depart from this port. Land values nearest the port will tumble downward, with a large area suffering some loss of land value. It is the tyranny of the taking and damaging of private property without compensation.

Bayport: the equivalent of ten serious petrochemical plants

Air quality throughout southeast Harris County will decline. Southeast Harris County already has major air quality problems, with both ozone and small particle levels exceeding national standards. Bayport, with its thousands of trucks, ships, trains, cranes and container movers, will have tons of noxious emissions per day. From an emissions standpoint, Bayport emits the equivalent of approximately ten serious petrochemical plants. It will be noxious. It is negative health-effects tyranny.

Bayport can be stopped if we collectively decide to stop it. This is not going to be a pretty fight. We are all going to have to roll up our sleeves and sweat a little bit. Stopping Bayport will require everyone to “get muddy.” What this means is that we have to make a strong showing against the Port of Houston’s proposed Bayport container port. We have to look the tyrant and tyrant’s mouthpieces and henchmen and women in the face, and we cannot blink.

GBCPA is making plans for the big fight this fall. We are developing a plan for involving the region’s churches in the effort to provide proper stewardship of our community. We are developing plans for a major demonstration of several thousand people, plans for getting a large turnout at the hearing on the DEIS. We are making plans that will lead to the defeat of the tyrant – the Port of Houston Authority - and its ill-conceived Bayport project. We have technical studies. We have legal strategies. What we need most right now is for citizens to stand up and be counted. Please contact us and let us put you to work making the defeat of Bayport a reality.

**Facing down the tyrant and standing up for quality of life
is guaranteed to make you feel better,
every time!**

REASONS TO MAKE WAVES

Messages from the Buzzards

Growing a touch tired of hearing about truck numbers and air pollution? Here are some other bones we have to pick with the port.

Property Tax

Did you hear about Gerry Cooney, owner of a home in LaPorte not far from Bayport, receiving a 40 percent drop in his property's appraised value? Cooney applied to the Harris County Appraisal District for a reduction in the appraised value of the home for the 2000 tax year because of the port plan. He received notification from the district's chief appraiser that the value of the property would be reduced by 40 percent, from \$91,300 to 54,800, on the basis of "changed characteristics."

Port Funds Spread Wide

Are you tuned in to how the Port of Houston Authority buys off potential opposition? For examples, the Clear Lake Area Economic Development Foundation has been pretty quiet about Bayport; CLAEDF has received at least two grants of \$25,000 each from the port authority, which is one of its members. The Seabrook newspaper *Baycomber* has been totally silent; PHA has been buying full-page color ads in that paper.



Port Privatization

All around the nation and the world, there are privatization moves in the port business. Indeed, private industry has submitted a permit application and is moving ahead with plans for a container port on Galveston Bay. Yet we still have the PHA, one of the few remaining public ports in the U.S., wanting to use your tax dollars to build the ill-conceived Bayport project.

Port Publicity Expenditures

Have you heard that PHA has devoted hundreds of thousands of dollars in its most recent budget to lobbying and public relations efforts? This is very, very much more than the entire budget of GBCPA . . . is this how we want to see tax dollars spent? The last time we looked, the newly elected mayor of Pasadena, John Manlove, who runs a PR agency, had been awarded a contract in the amount of about \$167,000 for port PR work.

The Cruise Blues

Notice how little we've heard about the cruise terminal proposed for Bayport? No wonder. In recent months Houston has lost both the cruise lines that toyed with us for a while as a departure point. Bayport is the wrong place. Chances are any cruise development would fail--and the space would be given over to more containers.

RESOURCES FOR MAKING WAVES

Bay Runner Is a Good Friend

Pick up a copy of *Bay Runner* newspaper if you haven't been reading it. Publisher Harvey Tidwell and editor Toni Tatossian have been great supporters, giving the Bayport fight good play in their pages in feature articles by Sally Antrobus.

Call Our Speakers Bureau

GBCPA operates a speaker's bureau and our PowerPoint show about Bayport is a highly informative presentation. To schedule a speaker for your group, call Natalie O'Neill at 281-326-1933.

Long Beach Film

Have you seen the GBCPA film "Container Ports: Lessons from Long Beach"? There's no need for us to reinvent the wheel here -- Long Beach has already seen the urban decay, land appropriations, and broken promises that come with a megaport. Call Natalie O'Neill at 281-326-1933 to arrange for your group to see the film.

Bumper Stickers

Stop by Charlotte Wells' shop, Baytime Books, 7th Street and Bradford, Toucan Alley, Kemah, to pick up a bumper sticker . . . phone 281-334-7323.

CALLING ALL WAVE MAKERS

CURRENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND NEW VOLUNTEERS

Many thanks to all our volunteers who signed on to GBCPA committees last June. GBCPA would not have enjoyed the success we have to date without your generous contribution of time, talents and energy. We know that many of you signed on to stay informed and that some of our committees have been meeting more regularly than others. If you are looking for a larger role in our committee structure, wish to change your field of endeavor, have a terrific idea for the fight ahead which you haven't seen yet or can help with opportunities listed below, give us a call. Please contact Debra Gallington at 281-470-7744 (phone), 281-470-9572 (fax), or email debragal@neosoft.com before June 1st or Katie Chimenti at 281-286-9750 (phone) or email etcmkcc@sprintmail.com after June 1st.

WISH LIST – For a Future Free of Container Blight

Email addresses

Send us your email address at gbcpa@gbcpa.org so that we can keep you posted fast when things develop. Invite all your friends and neighbors to do the same--or better yet, you take charge: collect up their email addresses and send them to us yourself.

Providing your email address also saves GBCPA printing and mailing costs.

Letters to the Press

Exercise yourself about the port's high-handedness. Letters are heavily read and keep the issue before the community. Title yours "Letter to the Editor": and include your name, address and phone number.

	<u>Fax numbers</u>
<i>Bay Runner</i>	281-474-4888
<i>Bayshore Sun</i>	281-471-5763
<i>The Citizen, Clear Lake</i>	281-286-0750
<i>Deer Park Broadcaster/Progress</i>	281-479-3415
<i>Pasadena Citizen</i>	713-477-4172
<i>South Belt Leader</i>	281-481-5730

Websites for Ideas

www.gbcpa.org , www.stopbayport.com ,
www.lovethebay.com , www.bayrunner.com
and one from South Carolina, where there's a similar port battle going on: www.containtheport.com

One Hour on the Phone

We plan a telephone drive to call people on the existing GBCPA list to get their email addresses for fast and easy communication. Can you help cover the phone for one hour?

Billboards and Sponsors

What do you know about billboards? What do space and reproductions costs? Where are the best positions? Can you research this for us? If four people pay for a week each, we'll have billboard space for a month. Eight would give us two billboards, or two months...

A Container, A Place to Park It And a Driver to Haul It

We want to decorate a shipping container and devote it to anti-Bayport publicity. Who can lend or sell us one for a few months? Who has a nice visible spot where we could park this little beauty when it isn't plying the highways, perhaps on NASA Road 1 or Bayport Boulevard? Who will pilot the 18-wheeler with the anti-Bayport container for a few hours a month? Who has a truck and/or chassis we could borrow or rent at a favorable rate?

Folders, Stuffers and Lickers

Help with getting out mailings.

Fun Fundraisers

Work a few hours at a fundraiser or donate silent auction items for events.

Typists A Typing

Work a few hours updating our membership list. Anyone can help if they have Excel on their computer.



MAKE YOUR GBCPA DONATION COUNT EVEN MORE

Have your employer match your contribution

GBCPA appreciates the generous financial support of the community. As we near the DEIS release, your donation is more critical than ever. We still have available a matching grant which doubles the amount of your donation. Another strategy for leveraging our dollars is to ask your employer if they also match employee contributions to 501 (c) (3) organizations — many do and your payroll department can make this happen easily. GBCPA recently received a generous bequest of \$500 that was matched by Enron Corp.; this \$1000 was then matched again by GBCPA's grantor for a total contribution of \$2000. Please investigate this opportunity at your workplace and make your dollars work harder for GBCPA.

Send your tax-deductible contributions to GBCPA, P.O. Box 323, Seabrook, TX 77586. I would like to support GBCPA at the following level:

Benefactor:	\$1000	Sponsoring:	\$500	Supporting:	\$250
Sustaining:	\$100	Contributing:	\$50	Regular:	\$25

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ TX, Zip _____

Phone _____ Email _____

Other ways to get in touch with GBCPA are by phone: 713-840-2729 or email: gbcpa@gbcpa.org