



Construction at Dredged Material Placement Areas in Galena Park and Jacinto City

BACKGROUND

A contractor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began work on October 15, 2011 to raise the levees about four feet (for a total height of 49 feet) around the East/West Clinton sites, to enable their continued use for placement of dredged material from the Houston Ship Channel. The contractor has moved equipment to the site and the work will continue for 12-18 months.

Most of the work will be along the perimeter of the site, with levee construction occurring toward the inside of the placement area. Within the interior of the placement areas, the contractor will clear vegetation, rehabilitate the East Cell drainage structure, and replace the West Cell outlet structure with a new one. Included in this contract are new levees along Mercury Drive, with the edge of the levees located approximately 45-60 feet from the side of the road. Additionally, some grading work will occur along the sides of the levees. When that work is complete, the area will be seeded to establish turf.

Contractor: Lloyd Engineering & Construction

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a placement area/site?

Placement areas are made available by the Port of Houston Authority, primarily for use by the United States Army Corps of Engineers ("Corps") for placement of sediments removed by the Corps as part of its governmental function of ensuring that the waterways (including the Houston Ship Channel) remain navigable. As the local sponsor of the Houston Ship Channel, one of the PHA's governmental obligations is to make the placement areas it owns available to the Corps to meet its governmental purpose. In some circumstances, private parties are also authorized to place sediments in the areas, typically in connection with localized dredging associated with their activities to maintain depth at their dock areas along the Houston Ship Channel.

Will there be truck traffic crossing Mercury during this project?

The work calls for the contractor to use material from within each site to raise the levees in that location, so there is expected to be only limited need for the contractor to move material on the roads. However, if "borrow material" (i.e. material taken from one location to another) is required to be hauled from the West Cell borrow areas to the East Cell of the site, resulting in

cross traffic, flagmen will be posted along Mercury Drive at a single crossing point and the community will be notified. *(Please see image on page three.)*

When will the work be finished?

The contract is scheduled to be completed by March 2013, but may be finished earlier.

Can pedestrians continue to use Mercury Drive?

Not recommended. Drainage ditch construction will occur along the road close to the edge of pavement in some areas. The road will remain open, but there is no sidewalk or shoulder suitable for pedestrians.

Will the contractor work at night?

No, the contractor will work during daylight hours, typically between 7 AM and 6 PM. The contract also permits work on weekends, if the contractor chooses to do so.

Will the eastern tract of land remain open for recreation?

The tract of land that is east of Holland Drive is currently listed as a “backup” borrow source for the project. This area will remain open for recreational use throughout the project unless it is determined that there would not be enough “borrow material” inside the placement areas. However, if “borrow material” is needed, this area would be closed while material is being removed, but will become available again after completion of the project. If this occurs, the community will be notified.

Who can I contact if I have questions about the construction activities?

The Corps of Engineer’s Project Engineer is Mr. Dale Williams, (Office: 409-766-3124 Cell phone: 409-682-7498).

The Port Authority also has a Community Information Line that is available for comments or questions, (713) 670-1000.

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

As early as January 2012, the Port Authority’s contractor will move into the Port’s House-Stimpson tracts (along I-610) to construct ditches inside the site to speed the consolidation of the dredge material. This work is expected to last approximately six months.

Additionally, in 2013, the Corps of Engineers is scheduled to award a contract to raise the levees at House-Stimpson approximately 4 feet.

