



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 11, 2008

For more information contact:  
John Valls, Marketing Manager  
Port of Corpus Christi Authority  
Office: 361.885.6158  
Cell: 361.779.5646

**Port of Corpus Christi's La Quinta Trade Gateway included in  
U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water  
Development Fiscal Year 2009 Funding Legislation**

(Corpus Christi, TX) --- The U.S. Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development this week approved Fiscal Year 2009 funding legislation. The Port of Christi Christi's La Quinta Trade Gateway is included in the bill to receive \$2 million through the Army Corps of Engineers. The funding will provide construction of the La Quinta channel in support of the La Quinta Trade Gateway container terminal. The La Quinta channel will be dredged and extended to the terminal site as the Port prepares the site for a terminal developer and operator.

"The Corpus Christi Channel Improvement Project is vital to the growth of Texas' economy," said Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison (R-TX). "Economic benefits from the La Quinta extension will exceed \$9 million annually, and the Channel Improvement Project will continue to reduce ship transportation costs."

The La Quinta Trade Gateway project is fast becoming a reality, as the port is considering a proposal for the development of the project site and regional partners are preparing for it's operation.



"The La Quinta expansion project is a significant part of this national strategic seaport's effort to increase development of the Coastal Bend regional economy. I am pleased the Appropriations Committee reviewed the merits of the Port's La Quinta Channel Extension project and awarded this crucial funding, which will enhance trade and create local jobs for Texans," said U.S. Sen. John Cornyn (R-TX).

La Quinta Trade Gateway is a major component in the Port's diversification plan and the ability to handle containerized cargo will position the Port as a major player in global distribution of consumer goods. The 1,100 acre site is fully permitted by the Army Corps of Engineers and is expected to enhance the area's economy by generating at full build-out approximately 14,970 direct, induced and indirect jobs, \$907 million of business revenue, \$785 million of personal wages and salaries and consumption purchases, \$108 million of indirect purchases, and \$70 million of state and local taxes.

"The Port of Corpus Christi is very pleased to learn that La Quinta is included in the funding legislation and we greatly appreciate the diligent efforts of Senator Hutchison and Senator Cornyn to further enhance the economic prosperity of the Coastal Bend," said Ruben Bonilla, Chairman of The Port of Corpus Christi.



The appropriations legislation will be considered by the House before submission to the President later this year or in early 2009. "We are optimistic about the future of this initiative and we look forward to the assistance of Congressman Ortiz (D-TX), a supporter of the Port's vision, to ensure that this vision is achieved," added Port Chairman Bonilla.

For more information please visit: [www.portofcorpuschristi.com](http://www.portofcorpuschristi.com)

###