



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Port of Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project authorized by U.S. Senate through WRDA

(Corpus Christi, TX) --- The Port of Corpus Christi's ship channel improvement project has been authorized by the U.S. Senate with passage of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA). The ship channel improvement project will enable the construction of barge lanes, an extension of the La Quinta Channel, the deepening and widening of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel, and construction of ecosystem restoration features. The Corps of Engineers recommended the project to Congress in June of 2003 at a cost of \$188,110,000 with the estimated federal cost of \$87,810,000. The Senate's passage of WRDA set the federal funding level at \$80,086,000, however, the bill must be reconciled with a House version passed last year. This process is expected sometime in the fall then on to the President for his signature. Once the President signs the bill, Congress will begin the appropriations process which is necessary for the project to begin.



“The Port of Corpus Christi owes a great debt of gratitude to Senators Hutchison and Cornyn along with Congressman Ortiz for their diligent efforts in seeking passage of this critical legislation. The deepening and widening of the ship channel will be an economic boom for increasing cargo, creating more jobs, and assuring safety in the Corpus Christi Ship Channel,” said Ruben Bonilla, Chairman of the Port of Corpus Christi.

The initial phase of the project will be the \$35 million extension of the La Quinta Channel, which will open access to the proposed La Quinta Trade Gateway container terminal. The Port of Corpus Christi is currently negotiating with A.C.S. Dragados of Madrid, Spain to serve as the terminal operator. Future phases include the widening of the ship channel from 400 ft. to 530 ft. for more safe and efficient two-way vessel traffic and deepening the current 45 ft. channel to 52 feet. Once the port establishes the channel at 52 ft., it will serve as the deepest port in the Gulf. During the widening and deepening process the project will provide ecosystem restoration features and create beneficial use habitats with the dredge material.

For more information please visit: www.portofcorpuschristi.com