



For Immediate Release
October 28, 2024

Port Houston Handles Largest Container Vessel to Date
Underscores Benefits of Channel Expansion and Project 11
Corrected Date for Community Resource Fair – Saturday, December 7

HOUSTON – On Tuesday, October 22, the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority met for its regular monthly meeting. Chairman Ric Campo began the meeting by commending staff and industry for their efforts during and following the October 1 to 3 strike, tied to contract negotiations between the International Longshoremen’s Association (ILA) and the United States Maritime Alliance (USMX). Port Houston’s container operations recovered and returned to normal within a week, despite predictions of longer-lasting impacts reported by the national media.

“I am incredibly proud of the team for their dedication throughout this time. There was a lot of uncertainty, and the team worked together to plan, communicate, and then execute our plans to get us back up and running quickly and normally,” said Campo.

Updates regarding the Houston Ship Channel Expansion – Project 11 – included the completion of its fifth contract, on budget and six weeks ahead of schedule. Looking ahead, Weeks Marine is scheduled to finish hydraulic dredging in Segment 1B (Redfish to Bayport) during November, which will provide a completely widened ship channel through Galveston Bay to the Bayport Ship Channel.



With the support of the Houston Pilots, the 11,356 TEU CMA CGM Cassiopeia arrived at Port Houston's Bayport Container Terminal on September 24. Over two days, 7,327 moves were completed—nearly 31 moves per hour. This significant milestone is expected to lead to 15,000 TEU vessel calls at Port Houston later this year. (Photo: Port Houston)

Further underscoring the importance of Project 11, an operations update highlighted the group’s recent handling of its largest container vessel to date. With the support of the Houston Pilots, the 11,356 TEU CMA CGM Cassiopeia arrived at Bayport on September 24, with 7,327 moves completed over two days – nearly 31 moves per hour. This significant milestone is expected to lead to 15,000 TEU vessel calls at Houston later this year.

During his report to the Port Commission, Chief Executive Officer Charlie Jenkins described Port Houston’s testimony at a recent meeting of the Texas House Transportation Committee, which provided an opportunity to review state funding from the last legislative session, the return on the state’s investment, and the status of current projects. Port Houston was awarded \$36 million from the Texas Department of Transportation Maritime Infrastructure Program for Wharfs 4 and 5 project at Barbours Cut Terminal. The project is well underway and on schedule to finish in January of 2026. “The bottom line is that when the State of Texas invests in our seaports, we deliver,” said Jenkins.

On the sustainability front, Port Houston celebrated receipt of the North American Marine Environment Protection Association’s 2024 Port Award. Port Houston was recognized for being proactive in protecting the health of our seas, especially with its work on Project 11, commitment to ES2G, and overall stewardship practices.

During the meeting, the Port Commission continued this leadership, authorizing a contract for the purchase of twenty clean-diesel tier-4 engine yard tractors for Barbours Cut Terminal and Bayport Container Terminal.

Chairman Campo also reported on a recent successful community hiring fair in partnership with SER Jobs, Harris County Precinct 2, and the East End Chamber of Commerce. The event was widely attended by business and industry partners and job seekers, along with Port Houston staff volunteers. “This is an important aspect of the work we do – I always say it’s about jobs,” said Campo.

Last week, Port Houston announced that based on a recent employee survey it had been officially certified by Great Place to Work®. The award recognizes employers who create a positive employee experience.



Port Houston staff in a meeting. Last week, Port Houston announced it had been officially certified by Great Place to Work®. The award recognizes employers who create a positive employee experience based on an employee survey. (Photo: Port Houston)

Looking ahead, Port Houston will host the Houston International Maritime Conference ([HIMC 2024](#)) on November 6-8, 2024. The third annual event will feature noteworthy industry leaders and dynamic discussions on state of the ship channel, energy, container and general cargo international waterborne trades and their economic impact, workforce development, marine terminal operations, sustainability and more.

During the holiday season, Port Houston will also host a free [Community Resource Fair](#) on **Saturday, December 7** at Channelview High School's CTE Center. The event offers the public free health screenings, food resources, entertainment, and more, and no registration is required.

The Port Commission meets next on Tuesday, November 12, 2024. This meeting will serve as the annual budget meeting and workshop.

About Port Houston

For more than 100 years, Port Houston has owned and operated the public wharves and terminals along the Houston Ship Channel, including the area's largest breakbulk facility and two of the most efficient container terminals in the country. Port Houston is the advocate and a strategic leader for the Channel. The Houston Ship Channel complex and its more than 200 private and eight public terminals is the nation's largest port for waterborne tonnage and an essential economic engine for the Houston region, the state of Texas and the U.S. The Port of Houston supports the creation of nearly 1.5 million jobs in Texas and 3.37 million jobs nationwide, and economic activity totaling \$439 billion in Texas and \$906 billion in economic impact across the nation. For more information, visit the website at PortHouston.com.

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