



**For Immediate Release
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**“Dream-Realized”
Port Houston Invests \$450 Million to Expand Houston Ship Channel
Awards provide best value, economic impact, and S/MWBE inclusion**



HOUSTON – Today, the Port Commission of the Port of Houston Authority met in a special session and awarded two of the largest contracts in the organization’s history. The Commission approved the staff’s recommendation to award Weeks Marine and Curtin Maritime Corporation contracts totaling \$430 million to complete the remaining Galveston Bay segments of the Houston Ship Channel expansion project.

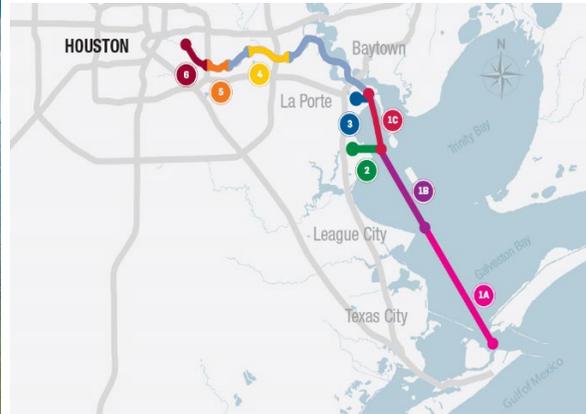
“It’s an exciting day for Port Houston and the entire region and the millions of people who rely on the Houston Ship Channel for their livelihood and to bring them essential goods,” Chairman Ric Campo said. “One of today’s contracts to support Houston Ship Channel Expansion – Project 11 is historic and, to our knowledge, the largest award ever made.”

Port Houston staff recommended Weeks Marine and Curtin Maritime Corporation based on the best value, including cost, schedule, environmental components, and Small, Minority and Woman-owned Business Enterprises (S/MWBE) inclusion.

“The teams recommended were the top proposers in all of these areas – best schedules, lowest costs and estimated NOx emissions, and most S/MWBE inclusion,” Executive Director Roger Guenther said in his report. “Nearly 32% of the contracts will go to S/MWBE companies, furthering our commitment to business equity, which is a priority for Port Houston.”



Caption: Ships passing along the Houston Ship Channel



Caption: Houston Ship Channel Expansion Program - Project 11 Segment Map

Also noteworthy, nearly 52% of the contract amounts are dedicated to the creation of marshes, bird islands and oyster reefs.

Both Campo and Guenther expressed appreciation to all involved in the historic collaborative effort, especially the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), the Houston Pilots, and industry partners.

According to the USACE, the Houston Ship Channel is the busiest waterway in the nation. Port Houston's eight public terminals and more than 200 private facilities have an economic impact of nearly \$802 billion in annual activity to the nation, and support more than 2.1 million U.S. jobs.

Project 11 is 82% funded, and efforts continue to secure the remaining federal funds. When complete, the USACE study shows Project 11 should add more than \$133 million annually in national economic value.

The Port Commission approved all of the items on the agenda, totaling \$450 million supporting the channel expansion efforts.

"The Houston Ship Channel is vital in our region and we are proud to continue to invest in our collective future," Chairman Campo said.

Last month, during its regular meeting, the Port Commission also awarded approximately \$30 million towards continued investments in landside infrastructure and terminal operations.

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 public and private terminals, collectively known as the Port of Houston, 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 1.35 million jobs in Texas and 3.2 million jobs nationwide, and economic activity totaling \$339 billion in Texas – 20.6 percent of Texas' total gross domestic product (GDP) – and \$801.9 billion in economic impact across the nation. For more information, visit the website at PortHouston.com.

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