

## **BAYPORT CONTAINER PORT WILL SEVERELY IMPACT CLEAR LAKE CITY**

Are you aware of what the Port of Houston Authority is trying to do under our noses? Did you know that there will be a bond election November 2, 1999 to approve funds for the construction of a 12 story high container port less than six miles from Bay Pointe?

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers hosted a public "scoping" meeting at 7:00 p.m. August 17 at the Pasadena Convention Center to gather testimony from the public regarding the proposed Bayport Container Port. This 1000+acre facility is currently planned for the bay area north of Seabrook and south of the Houston Yacht Club at the intersection of Port Road and Toddville Road. The "scoping" meeting continued well after midnight as hundreds of area residents described their displeasure three minutes at a time. This facility will have a severe impact on the entire area's ecosystem, transportation system, and quality of life.

Bay Area residents, and the public at large, have been somewhat kept in the dark as this project has been planned. The Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association has published a white paper entitled "Why the Corps of Engineers Should Refuse to Permit Bayport and Why You Should Vote NO on the Port of Houston Authority Bonds" prepared by concerned citizens such as the Galveston Bay Estuary Program, League of Women Voters, and Seabrook City Council, to name just a few. In addition, local realtors predict a negative effect on home values in Clear Lake City and the surrounding Bay Area.

You should know that:

The Port Authority expects Harris County residents to foot the bill for this port. A \$387 million bond vote is scheduled for November 2, 1999, and this is only Phase I of the project. The Port Authority is spending \$915,000 of our tax dollars on an advertising campaign, which is currently underway (i.e. television commercials for the Port). *Additionally, the Port Authority pays no property tax, city tax, school tax, drainage district tax, MTA tax, sales tax, state franchise tax, or federal income tax.*

The Port Authority plans to cement over 120 acres of wetlands and an additional 1000+ acres of fragile land fronting Galveston Bay. To put this in perspective, this facility will be approximately 75 percent the size of the Johnson Space Center.

In addition to an expansive container

port the facility will also have berths for five (5) cruise ships. Toddville Road will be widened to handle the 4000 cruise passengers driving through our community each weekend.

We can expect a serious, further detriment to our already poor air quality due to the air pollution from diesel cranes, diesel ships, diesel trains, and diesel trucks transporting cargo and containers to the facility 24 hours per day, 7 days per week. Over 7000 18-wheelers per day or 14,000 in-and-out trips are expected once fully operational. Rail transportation in the area will be expanded to handle eight (8) trains per day, 7 days per week. Traffic will be stopped on Fairmont Parkway alone over 2 hours and 40 minutes per day for rail crossings. Another 2000 commuter cars per day will congest Bay Area Blvd, NASA Road 1, Clear Lake City Blvd., Highway 146 and Red Bluff Blvd.

The lights on this facility will be 12 stories high and visible from 18 miles away. The cranes planned are 15 stories high.

This is just the tip of the iceberg! The Board of Directors urges everyone to become informed and involved with this proposal. Can anything be done? Yes - Vote against the Harris County bond election November 2, 1999. This is the official position of the Bay Pointe Board of Directors. If you agree with the Boards position, please sign and mail the RESOLUTION FOR SENSIBLE PORT POLICIES, which is supplied in this mailout. Talk to friends and family about this very important issue. Consider sending contributions to the Galveston Bay Conservation and Preservation Association, P.O. Box 323, Seabrook, TX 77586. It is the only non-profit group coordinating legal action. Mona Shoup, one of their co-chairs, is available to talk to you or groups about this project. Call her at (281) 335-7194 or e-mail her at

[vzcl\\_la@email.msn.com](mailto:vzcl_la@email.msn.com).

**THE NEXT INFORMATIONAL MEETING IS THURSDAY OCTOBER 21, 1999, 7:00 P.M. – 9:00 P.M. AT CLEAR LAKE INTERMEDIATE, 15545 EL CAMINO REAL. GUEST SPEAKER: JIM BLACKBURN**

**PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE NOVEMBER 2, 1999.**