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For further information:  
Cindy Shanley or Theresa Pirek  
713-222-1600

## **PORT TO CONSIDER BEGINNING BAYPORT TERMINAL BID PROCESS**

*Starting Process Pending Corps Decision Will Save Time and Money: Edmonds*

HOUSTON, July 19, 2002 – Port of Houston Authority Commissioners will consider issuing the first request for proposals to build key elements of the planned Bayport Container and Cruise Terminal at their meeting on Monday, July 22<sup>nd</sup>, according to the Port Commission meeting agenda made public today.

“Although no work will be performed and no spending will be authorized until and unless the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers approves the project, beginning the process now of advertising for and receiving proposals will save time and money when we are authorized to begin construction,” said Port Authority Chairman James T. Edmonds. The entire bidding and contracting process can take six to eight months from the time bids are submitted, evaluated by staff, reviewed by commissioners, and then awarded, he said.

The contract advertisement to be considered at the July 22 meeting is for four dockside container cranes to be used in loading and unloading container ships; their estimated cost is \$29 million. Additional Bayport-related contracts with long lead times are expected to be considered at future Port Commission meetings, Edmonds said.

### The Port of Houston Authority

The Port of Houston Authority owns and operates the public facilities located along the Port of Houston, a 25-mile long complex of diversified public and private facilities designed for handling general cargo, containers, grain, other dry bulk materials, project and heavy lift cargo and other types of cargo. The Port of Houston Authority plays a vital role in ensuring navigation safety

along the Houston Ship Channel, which has been instrumental in Houston's development as a center of international trade. The port is ranked first in the United States in foreign waterborne commerce and second in total tonnage. Each year, more than 7,000 vessels from around the world call at the port.

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