



## **Numerous agencies, community and industry stakeholders deliver high marks for PHA's environmental accomplishments**

“PHA is one of the leading port authorities in environmental initiatives and standards, and AAPA has recognized their diligent environmental programs. The Port of Houston Authority received two of our most prestigious awards, the Calvin Hurst Award in 2002 for the environmental management system and the Environmental Improvement Award in 2001 for air quality projects. AAPA applauds the environmental stewardship that the Port of Houston Authority champions.”

**KURT J. NAGLE**

*President and Chief Executive Officer  
American Association of Port Authorities*

“The Port of Houston Authority has done an outstanding job in meeting -- and in many cases exceeding -- environmental regulations within their area of control. It is unfortunate that the Natural Resources Defense Council characterizes the Port of Houston Authority as the administrator for air and water quality for the entire Houston Ship Channel. The Port of Houston Authority has no regulatory authority over the private entities of the channel, the vessels, trucks, railroads, tugboats or barges, which call on the sixth largest port in the world.”

**HONORABLE ROBERT ECKELS**

*Judge  
Harris County Commissioners Court*

“The Port of Houston Authority has been a consistent partner in regional efforts to improve the environment for Houston-area families. Clearly, the city of Houston is strengthened through the PHA's successful commitment to being the first such

facility in the U.S. to implement an environmental management system which is ISO 14001 certified. This environmental management system, developed in concert with community stakeholders, has demonstrated 25 to 35 percent reductions in air emissions of NOx and particulate matter, respectively.

“With an eye toward addressing land contamination issues, the PHA has also been involved in strategic discussion with the city of Houston Mayor’s Office of Environmental Policy, Brownfields Redevelopment Program, with regard to their “portfields.”

“The working relation between the city of Houston and the PHA has been extended to statewide air quality issues addressed through the Texas Clean Air Working Group comprised of private and public sector stakeholders from most non-attainment and near non-attainment areas throughout Texas.

“Area environmental challenges are profound; their address will continue to require significant investment of resources in development and application of inventive technologies. However, the city of Houston and the Region as a whole are fortunate to count the Port of Houston Authority among stakeholders committed to achieving environmental excellence.”

**DR. PAMELA M. BERGER**  
*Director of Environmental Policy*  
*City of Houston*

“We have participated with the Port of Houston Authority and other agencies for 14 years in the Beneficial Uses Group. Through this initiative, the PHA has been working with the agencies to develop innovative uses for material dredged from the Houston Ship Channel, which led to increased habitat and significant improvements in water quality. During this time we have found the PHA to be good partners in exploring new techniques to create natural wildlife habitat for the Galveston Bay system.”

**PHIL GLASS**  
*Biologist*  
*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*

“The Port of Houston Authority leads the maritime industry in its environmental programs and initiatives. Last year, the port authority was accepted into the EPA’s National Environmental Performance Track, which recognizes and encourages top environmental performers to go beyond compliance to attain levels of environmental performance and management that benefit people, communities and the environment. This program requires applicants to present documentation of its environmental improvements and commit to future goals to reduce environmental impacts. So far, the Port of Houston Authority is the only port in the U.S. that has been accepted into this prestigious program, clearly setting an example for other ports to strive to emulate.”

**KATHLEEN BAILEY**

*Port sector liaison*

*Sector Strategies Program*

*U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

“NOAA Fisheries has worked with the Port of Houston for over 14 years as a member of the Beneficial Uses Group for the Houston Ship Channel Project. When completed, the project will result in the elimination of open bay disposal of millions of cubic yards of dredged material from the ship channel and the creation of over 4,500 acres of essential fish habitat over the 50-year life of the project. Through this effort, a significant reduction in man-induced turbidity and an increase in fisheries production is expected.”

**RUSTY SWAFFORD**

*Fishery Biologist and Team Leader*

*NOAA Fisheries Habitat Conservation Division*

*Galveston Facility*

Four years ago, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality commended the Port of Houston Authority for its aggressive environmental and pollution prevention programs in a pollution prevention report.

In its reported assessment, TCEQ said:

PHA has demonstrated an initial commitment to waste reduction and pollution prevention in establishing an environmental affairs department to help identify and address environmental issues. Long-term success can be achieved through developing a cooperative partnership with PHA, their tenants, and the TCEQ...Furthermore, PHA can enhance the port's position as an environmental leader within their industry by adopting aggressive pollution prevention goals.

In that same report, the TCEQ challenged the port authority to achieve ISO 14001 certification, which the port authority received in 2002.

### **TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

As mayor of Galena Park, I have only high commendations for the ways in which the Port of Houston Authority communicates with Galena Park. The port authority has been instrumental in developing several important civic projects in Galena Park, including the Main Street project, which will construct a four-lane road to the Woodhouse Terminal.

Also, the port authority has contributed to our city with financial assistance for a new fire truck and well as the 99-year lease for the Galena Park school district's FFA complex. The school district could not have built that complex without the help from the port.

The port authority always keeps us informed of its activities, and we have an excellent relationship with the Port of Houston Authority.

**MAYOR BOBBY BARRETT**  
*City of Galena Park*

As mayor of Baytown for nearly 11 years, I have been quite impressed with the Port Authority's commitment to good environmental stewardship. The port authority's programs have benefited Baytown and were the foundation of some of the most significant milestones Baytown has achieved.

For decades, Goat Island was an important and historic part of the Baytown community. Once accessible by foot, Goat Island was a recreational area for

fishing and duck hunting. However, over time, the island subsided into Galveston Bay.

Today, the Port of Houston Authority, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Beneficial Uses Group are turning back time in Baytown. Along with improving the Galveston Bay area, this team is restoring Goat Island. I consider this project a great gift to the citizens of Baytown.

Another important environmental project is the Upper Texas Coast Water-Bourne Education Center. This non-profit group serves fifth graders through high school seniors. It offers biology and chemistry lessons such as testing water salinity, fishing and trawling for marine life and identifying birds.

Since the program began four years ago, 6,000 people have taken part in the water-bourne education center. The Port of Houston Authority has assured that the program will continue to be successful by providing \$50,000 over two years. This funding has enabled WBEC to expand its services plus purchase necessary equipment such as engine oil for the boats.

Clearly, Baytown benefits from these great environmental programs of the port authority, and I applaud the port authority for its diligence to our community.

**MAYOR PETE ALFARO**  
*City of Baytown*

“The Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission would like to acknowledge the Port of Houston Authority’s efforts at helping to improve air quality in Texas. The Port of Houston has been one of the most aggressive pursuers and users of advanced cleaner fuels and technologies. The recognition by the port authority for its contributions to both the challenges and solution sto clean air in the Houston/Galveston area should be commended.”

Letter from:  
**JEFFREY SAITAS, P.E.**  
*Executive Director*  
*Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission*

“Texans have a long and rich history of environmental stewardship. You should be proud of the port authority’s commitment toward preserving, as well as conserving, our resources.”

Letter from  
**ROBERT J. HUSTON**  
*Chairman*  
*Texas Commission on Environmental Quality*