

PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY

EXECUTIVE OFFICES: 111 EAST LOOP NORTH • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77029-4327
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 2562 • HOUSTON, TEXAS 77252-2562
TELEPHONE: (713) 670-2400



February 23, 2010

Re: Bayport Good Neighbor Program

Dear Resident:

The Port of Houston Authority, as part of its ongoing Good Neighbor Program, has recently completed the Bayport Sound Impact Study, an independent study commissioned by the Port Authority as one of its action commitments to north shore homeowners near the Bayport Container and Cruise terminals. This study and the ongoing pilot project have included:

- Long-term sound monitoring by HFP Acoustical consultants;
- Evaluation of sound data by W. D. Schock Company; and
- A testing and mitigation program that to date has included one home in Shoreacres and one in LaPorte.

We are pleased to pass on to our neighbors the news that these efforts clearly demonstrate that sound insulation and related mitigation work can successfully address sound impacts on north shore homes adjoining the Bayport area.

The Port Authority's consultants have generated enough testing data to reach this conclusion; however, the Port Authority intends to honor its program commitment to perform sound testing and mitigation work on the remaining 10 community homes. The Port Authority is prepared to begin work on those homes in the near future and will contact those homeowners in a separate letter.

This two-year study, and the test results it has collected, has carefully defined a 411-property sound impact area in Shoreacres and La Porte. Although there are no established state and federal noise standards for port operations, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) has established guidelines and targets for residential mitigation projects. Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) planning guidance separately requires that mitigation achieve a "substantial" sound reduction.

*The methodology and standards we have used to determine the impact area are those used by the FAA: the impact area is defined as residences within the 65-70 dBA LDN sound contour lines.**

The Port Authority will host a meeting in March for residential property owners within this impact area, to explain the details of its mitigation solution. Residential property owners within the area will receive a separate letter, with information specific to the meeting.

The Port Authority's mitigation solution is the latest effort in its ongoing work to meet or exceed permit requirements for Bayport construction and carry out its responsibilities as a good neighbor, including:

- Two planting projects in the greenbelt area north of the Bayport shoreline;
- Shoreline protection along the north shore of the Bayport channel;
- The use of "broadband" backup signals on construction and operating vehicles to reduce the sounds of traditional alarms;
- Lighting systems that minimize light spill into adjoining areas;

* (i) "dB" is the accepted measurement for sound levels: the ratio of a measured sound pressure compared to a standard reference;
(ii) "dBA" measures sound pressure levels using the standard "A-scale" of a sound meter, and
(iii) "Ldn" is the 24 hour A-weighted "Leq" (dBA including all of the time varying sound energy in that period), with a 10 decibel penalty for night-time sounds.

☒ Specially designed ship-to-shore cranes that minimize operating sounds through use of electric motors and spreader bars that minimize cable-slap; ☐ Continual workforce education and awareness of sound issues to help reduce the sound of operations; and ☐ Discouraging operational use of horns and loudspeakers, except for safety or security purposes.

The Port Authority also works extensively with barge companies, shipping lines and other customers to emphasize the need for community awareness when operating at the terminal.

The Port Authority will continue to take other measures to address the community impacts of the Bayport Container and Cruise terminals. These include operation of the Good Neighbor Hotline (713) 670-1000, which is available for you to call 24 hours a day and seven days a week.

If you have any questions about this letter, please call Lavelle Lemonier at (713) 670-2831.

As one of the Gulf Coast region's primary economic engines, the Port of Houston Authority is committed to best environmental management practices for our customers and our communities.

Sincerely,



Port of Houston Authority Enclosure:

Program Boundary Map

SAMPLE