

Funding and Legislative Concerns

**Managing Sediments in the Watershed: Bringing Dredge
Material and Watershed Managers Together**



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About the Port of Houston

- #1 Port in US for foreign tonnage
- #2 Port in US for total tonnage
- 10th Largest Port in the World
- Over 150 private and public facilities
- 200 million tons of cargo in 2005
- 7,057 vessel calls in 2005





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Overview

- Discuss a project with a dredged material management plan
 - Houston Ship Channel DMMP
 - Funding/Legislative hurdles and solutions
- Legislative/Funding Strategies
- Path Forward--What we all can do





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The Project Vision

- Deepen and widen a 53 mile channel
- Create positive economic impact
 - Regional
 - National
- Create a positive environmental impact





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Project Challenges

- Engineering: Dispose of 350 million CY of dredge material
- Environmental: Beneficially use dredge material
- Economic: Maximum benefit/cost
- Financial: Consistent Federal funding, Local Sponsor Cost Share
- Safety: Wider channel and barge lanes





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Project Solutions

- Created a multi-agency group called the ICT (Interagency Coordination Team)
 - Created the BUG from the ICT to guide the habitat creation
- Built a demonstration marsh to prove to stakeholders, agencies, and Congress that our project would work
- Never relaxed on the project...persistence with Corps, Congress, agencies, and stakeholders
- Persistently met with Congressional delegation for their support





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Project Funding:

- 4 P's
 - Persistence
 - Pro-Active
 - Partnership
 - Prove Your Worth





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Persistence:

- Regularly meet with your Congressional delegation and/or their staffs
 - Educate
 - Coordinate
 - Communicate
- Diligence with the agencies





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Pro-Active

- Meet with Congressional Delegation early and often
- Get stakeholder input early and often





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Partnership

- Resource agency involvement
- Local service facilities involvement





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Prove Your Worth

- Are you worth the money?
- Who will benefit from your project?
- How large is the benefit?
- Use all available economic data





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Challenges

- Declining Corps Budgets (Nationwide)
- Unbalanced flow of dollars to Ports
- Harbor Maintenance Tax Trust Fund
- Highlight what could be lost
- Fate of smaller ports





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Path Forward

- Make your voice heard
- Remember the 4 P's
 - Persistence, Pro-Active, Partnership,
Prove your Worth



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