

## 2<sup>ND</sup> (FINAL) FLOODPLAIN NOTICE

Date: February 5, 2009

To: All Interested Parties

From: Jon Mabry  
Chief Operating Officer  
Disaster Recovery  
Mississippi Development Authority

Subject: Notice of Proposal to Build in a 100 Year Floodplain Required by Executive Order 11988, Entitled "Flood Plain Management"

The Mississippi Development Authority (MDA) proposes to provide federal funds from HUD's Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Disaster Recovery Grant funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended to the Mississippi State Port at Gulfport (Port) which will use those funds to complete the filling of the previously permitted 60 acre project which was under construction when Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast. The project area is located on the western margin of the West Pier at the Port.

Because the property is located in the 100 year floodplain of the northern margin of the Mississippi Sound, this notice is required by the above Executive Order and HUD Environmental Regulations at 24 CFR Part 58, for Community Development Block Grant projects and activities.

A Notice of Early Public Review for this project was published in the Sun Herald newspaper on December 29, 2008 and disseminated to other interested parties and regulatory agencies.

The 60 acre fill project is an integral part of the Port's Strategic Master Plan. This plan, which was approved in 1994, included provisions to relocate the container carriers from their existing locations to an expanded West Pier which would be expanded in phases of 30 acre increments. Phase I and II of the project, known now as the 60acre fill, was initiated in 2003 and approximately 36 acres of the 60 acre fill project have been completed when Hurricane Katrina struck the Mississippi Gulf Coast in 2005.

The entire Port is located within the 100-year floodplain and there are no reasonable or practicable alternatives to completing the fill that would eliminate the need to locate the project within the 100-year floodplain. The Port did consider various alternatives to the proposed project. The "Reduced Fill" Alternative which involved reducing the area of fill was considered as a way of reducing activities within the floodplain. This alternative was eliminated because it reduced the storage capacity at the Port and limited their ability to operate efficiently.

The “No Action” was also considered. Under the “No Action” alternative, the project would be abandoned and the previously filled area would be stabilized. No additional fill would be added and the Port would not be able to expand their container storage area. This would negatively impact Port operations and reduce opportunities provide additional cargo handling facilities at the Port.

The comment period for this notice is 16 days after the publication date.

Send comments or obtain additional information by contacting:

Mississippi Development Authority  
P. O. Box 849  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205  
601-359-3449