



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **MOBILE HARBOR TURNING BASIN CONSTRUCTION TO MOVE FORWARD**

**Mobile, Ala. – April 28, 2009:** The Alabama State Port Authority's (ASPA) proposed turning basin project at the Port of Mobile took one giant step closer to reality when the project was listed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as an authorized project to be funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA).

The proposed turning basin has been identified as 'critical need' at the Port of Mobile as vessel traffic and ship sizes began to outgrow the harbor's single turning basin located on the Mobile River at the north end of the harbor. "Our port has needed the new turning basin as our business has significantly grown over the past decade," said Jimmy Lyons, Director and CEO for the Port Authority. "News of the project's could not have been more timely as we have just recently landed several new services at the port that currently cannot efficiently turn in our existing basin."

The 1550 ft. by 870 ft. turning basin to be located on the lower harbor represents the final phase of construction to widen and deepen the Mobile Ship Channel to 45 ft. draft. The Mobile Harbor widening and deepening project also included a 1200 ft. and 2100 ft. channel extensions to support vessel service at the Port Authority's McDuffie Coal Terminal, the newly opened \$300 million Mobile Container Terminal and the future Pinto Steel Terminal scheduled to open in December. The turning basin has been intended and authorized by Congress since 1986 under the Water Resources Development Act to expand and improve waterborne infrastructure that serves U.S. Southeast manufacturing investments in the automotive, aviation, steel, furniture assembly, poultry, chemical and power generation industries. Under the ARRA, \$24,985,000 has been allocated to complete the project. The Mobile District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has a total of 172 projects totaling \$293,152,000 in the states of Alabama, Florida, Georgia and Mississippi.

#### **About the Alabama State Port Authority**

The Alabama State Port Authority, headquartered in Mobile, Ala., owns and operates the State of Alabama's deepwater port facilities at the Port of Mobile. The Port of Mobile

currently ranks 10<sup>th</sup> largest U.S. seaport in total volume. The Port Authority directly employs 670 workers and its public facilities handled 28 million tons of cargo last year. The Authority's container, general cargo and bulk facilities have immediate access to two interstate systems, five Class 1 railroads, and nearly 15,000 miles of inland waterway connections. Learn more at [www.asdd.com](http://www.asdd.com).

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Contacts:

Judith Adams, Vice President, Marketing  
(251) 441-7003 Office  
(251) 751-3497 Cell  
[jadams@asdd.com](mailto:jadams@asdd.com)

Jimmy Lyons, Director and CEO  
(251) 441-7200 Office  
[jlyons@asdd.com](mailto:jlyons@asdd.com)