



GALVESTON BAY
FOUNDATION

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Galveston Bay Foundation applauds EPA decision to clean up San Jacinto River Waste Pits

Houston, TX – September 28, 2016 – Galveston Bay Foundation (GBF) applauds the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) decision to call for removal of the deadly dioxin-contaminated wastes at the San Jacinto River Waste Pits in Channelview, Harris County, Texas.

The decision to remove the wastes now, rather than to try to contain the toxins in place in a vulnerable location on a tidal river with an armored rock cap, is the only prudent solution.

These wastes, placed in unlined pits located on the banks of the San Jacinto River in the mid-1960s, have already caused harm to the river, Galveston Bay, and their recreational and commercial fisheries. Most importantly and sadly, the wastes from the pits have harmed people who came into contact with them and consumed fish and crab tainted by dioxin before the waste pits were temporarily capped.

The cap has exhibited problems in its short 5-year history, and scientific documents revealed the high risk for the cap to withstand severe hydrological events such as hurricanes. In our part of the world, it is not realistic that the cap would last another 750 years, the time it would take for the dioxin to naturally degrade to a safe concentration level.

We can take heart in knowing that removal of the remaining wastes, which continue to pose a looming threat to the river and Bay users, will solve the San Jacinto River Waste Pit issues once and for all.

GBF thanks those tireless community activists, other non-profit organizations, government agencies, elected officials and members of the public who joined with us in calling for safe, controlled removal of the wastes.

We commend the EPA for reviewing the history of this site and scientific evidence and working diligently toward a solution that protects our local human and environmental health. GBF will continue to work with the EPA, our fellow stakeholders and the public to ensure that the removal solution is the most robust and protective it can be. GBF will review the proposed clean up documents in their entirety and develop official public comments for the EPA in the coming weeks. We ask those who love the San Jacinto River and Galveston Bay to add their own voices during the 60-day public comment period that will run from September 29 to November 28, 2016.

For more information, please stay tuned for updates at <http://sanjacintowastepits.com/> and <http://galvbay.org>.

About the Galveston Bay Foundation

The mission of the Galveston Bay Foundation is to preserve, protect, and enhance the natural resources of the Galveston Bay estuarine system and its tributaries for present users and for posterity. The Foundation was incorporated in 1987, and is a non-profit organization under Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. GBF is located at 1100 Hercules Avenue, Suite 200 in Houston, Texas. For further information contact GBF at 281-332-3381 or visit the website at www.galvbay.org.

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