

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ASPA INVITES PUBLIC TO AN INFORMATIVE VIRTUAL MEETING RE: UPPER MOBILE BAY WETLAND CREATION PLANNING PROJECT

MOBILE, Ala. – September 10, 2021. The Alabama State Port Authority invites the public to participate in a virtual meeting concerning the Upper Mobile Bay Beneficial Use Wetland Creation Site (Planning) Project. The meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 14[,] 2021, beginning at 4 p.m., CDT. Individuals may participate by visiting <u>UpperMoBayWetlands.com</u> using a computer or a smart phone. You may access the Webex meeting <u>here</u> using a computer or a smart phone. Or dial-in at 415-655-0001; 2317 097 5066#

The Project team includes local coastal engineers and scientists, who will provide a 20-minute presentation about the \$2.5 million planning project for creating 1,200 acres of wetlands in the Upper Mobile Bay. The overview will include a brief project history, key benefits and expectations, the project timeline, and work completed to date.

A question-and-answer period will be provided following the 20-minute presentation.

This planning project is sponsored and directed by the Port Authority and funded by the Resources and Ecosystems Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf States Act (RESTORE Act) - Bucket 2. For more information about the Upper Mobile Bay Beneficial Use Wetland Creation Site (Planning) Project and to subscribe for news updates, visit <u>UpperMoBayWetlands.com</u>.

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BACKGROUND

Each year the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the Alabama State Port Authority remove approximately six million cubic yards of sediment from Alabama's Mobile Harbor federal navigation channel and adjacent public berths. Current practice places dredged materials in permitted open-water or upland management areas. These valuable sediments can be used to create wetlands and habitat. By constructing this project, sediments could remain in the Upper Mobile Bay system to increase important wetland and submerged aquatic vegetation habitat areas, improving water quality, building resilience against storm surge and reducing costs to maintain public channels and berths.