

## **PORT OF PALM BEACH & FDOT RESPOND TO LAKE WORTH INLET SHOALING**

December 31, 2014

Press Release: For Immediate Release

**RIVIERA BEACH, Fla.** – The Port of Palm Beach and Florida Department of Transportation have joined efforts with the Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) to respond to the mounting concerns over the shoaling taking place in the Lake Worth Inlet. The Port of Palm Beach has been under mandated draft restrictions since September 2014.

Although the Army Corp of Engineers undertook an emergency dredging operation in October, recent soundings indicate shoaling still remains between the jetties. “We have been persistent in our efforts to obtain funding and permits to remove the remaining accumulated sand from the channel,” said Manuel Almira, Executive Director for the Port of Palm Beach.

The Florida Department of Transportation has been diligently working with the Port of Palm Beach to secure funding for this project in order to avoid any further hindrance to vessels entering and exiting the harbor.

The Port of Palm Beach Board of Commissioners voted unanimously to approve a Joint Participation Agreement with FDOT after learning the Port had received a permit from the ACOE to begin the process of removing the sand from the channel high points.

“We are pleased to announce that FDOT has approved a grant for \$175,000 for this project,” said Chairman Edward R. Opiel. “FDOT’s partnership with the Port of Palm Beach is vital to the mobility of people and goods. We are truly grateful for their commitment to our projects that serve to enhance the economic prosperity of our communities.”

The dredging project is expected to begin December 31, 2014.

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*The Port of Palm Beach District was established in 1915 as an independent special taxing district, a subdivision of the State of Florida. The Port has not collected taxes in 39 years. Over \$5-Billion worth of commodities, two million tons of diversified cargoes and more than 345,000 passengers move through the Port annually. The Port is committed to the highest levels of service and to fiscal and environmental responsibility while ensuring the utmost safety and security.*  
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