

THE CRANEY ISLAND CONNECTION

CRANEY ISLAND EASTWARD EXPANSION NEWS AND INFORMATION

VOLUME 4 ISSUE 12

WINTER 2011

Stage 1 of Dike Construction Complete

Construction on the first stage of the Craney Island Eastward Expansion is proceeding as planned, with Stage 1 of the project's sand placement and wick drain installation completed in early December. More than 10 million linear feet of drains were placed in the cross dike foundations during this stage of the project. Settlement plates have been installed to monitor the rate at which the sandy material that makes up the dike foundations is settling. In mid-January, geotechnical engineers will place inclinometers into the foundations to measure the vertical and horizontal movement of the material and ensure that it is consolidating according to schedule.



Wick drains installed into the dike foundations can currently be seen from the air, but will be buried by the next lift of sand. By this time next year, land will break the waterline and be visible.

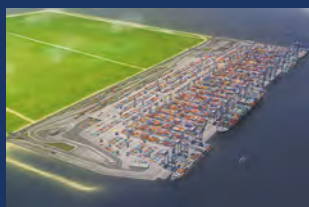
Weeks Marine, Inc. will soon begin work for Stage 2A of the project by beneficially reusing dredged material from maintenance dredging in the Cape Henry Channel to build the dikes. This saves time and money by using the dredge material locally rather than bringing it to an offshore disposal site.

Dr. Masaki Kitazume, a member of the project's Blue Ribbon Panel and a Professor of Civil Engineering at the Tokyo Institute of Technology, visited the project site in December. While touring the site and reviewing its progress, he remarked on the efficiency of the barges designed for the project.

Federal Government Continues Commitment to Project with \$26.8 M

The U.S. Congress has approved the 2012 fiscal year (FY12) federal spending bill, which includes \$26.8 million for the Craney Island Eastward Expansion project. At press time, the bill was awaiting the President's signature. The funds will be used to continue dike construction.

"This is the third consecutive year that the project has been supported by the federal government and I think that is a sign of the commitment to the project," said Jeff Keever, senior deputy executive director of the Virginia Port Authority. "We would not be in this position if it weren't for the work of our Senators and Congressional delegation." Senators Mark Warner and Jim Webb requested the appropriation in the legislation that Congress approved for FY12.



THE CRANEY ISLAND CONNECTION IS PUBLISHED BY THE VIRGINIA PORT AUTHORITY AND THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, TO PROVIDE READERS WITH INFORMATION ABOUT DEVELOPMENT OF THE CRANEY ISLAND EASTWARD EXPANSION. WE INVITE READERS TO PROVIDE COMMENTS AND SUGGEST TOPICS FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION OR ADDITIONAL COPIES, PLEASE CONTACT:

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Paradise Creek Wetland Planting in Progress

The Paradise Creek wetland project, which is the first of many mitigation projects that will be done in conjunction with Eastward Expansion construction, is nearing completion. Over the past year, contractors have excavated 310,000 cubic yards of material from the site. The excavation prepared the area for future tidal channels, low and high marsh vegetation, and grass-covered slopes and terraces. The wetlands will act as a natural buffer to

filter run-off and improve the quality of the creek, create fish and wildlife habitat, and assist with flood control and erosion. Ongoing maintenance continues for the construction road, silt fences, tree protection, sediment basin, spillway, turbidity curtain and dewatering structure. At final completion, the site will be a City of Portsmouth nature park and learning center.



Currently, the upper "high marsh," or lower slope, of the site is being planted with shrubs which will remain dormant for the winter.



After fine grading of the slopes, grass seed was planted. The grass will be fully grown by the spring.