



Port-o-Call Cameron



Cameron home to 13% of State's largest projects and 47% of Capital Investment

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From the Director

2016 was another banner year for the Port, Cameron Parish, and Southwest Louisiana. The region dominated the rest of the State with LNG projects, topped off with development of a new, private port. Of the 61 mega projects announced or proposed in Louisiana since 2009, 8, or 13%, are within Cameron Parish, valued at \$62.75 billion or 47% of the combined capital investment of all 61 projects statewide, according to data from LED and recently reported on by 1012 Industry Report. These projects include: Cheniere Energy's Sabine Pass LNG; G2 LNG; Semptra Energy/Cameron LNG; SCT&E LNG; Venture Global LNG; Delfin LNG; Commonwealth LNG; and Port Cameron, LLC.

The New Year marks the start of a new era for parish port operations. The Cameron Parish Port, Harbor, and Terminal District will officially begin operations on January 1, 2017. The new district merges the East and West Cameron Parish Port Commissions into one governing body. Final appointments to the 11 member District Board by the Parish Police Jury took place on December 6th. The new District will operate, in part, on fees collected from shipping interest within the District. Some began paying as of last February and collections for 2016 have exceeded \$50,000. Coupled with the Foreign Trade Subzone status, the District is gearing up to meet the demands of increased ship traffic.

And, the 500 acre deep-water staging port, Port Cameron, will change the seascape of the Gulf of Mexico oil and gas service industry. Once completed, it is expected to generate \$9.5 billion in new sales for firms in southwest Louisiana and support more than 16,000 jobs. The Port will service the oil and gas offshore energy service sectors. Construction is expected to begin in the first quarter of 2017.

2017 appears to be another banner year with continuation of announced projects, construction beginning on Port Cameron, and oil activity should pick up in conjunction with the recent rise in the price per barrel.

- Clair Hebert Marceaux
Director

Parish Economic Development Briefs

Employment

For the latest reported month (October) total employment for parish residents was 3,501; an increase of 22 jobs from one year ago, and 31 more than September. The Parish unemployment rate of 4.4% in October was the lowest of all parishes; the State's unemployment rate in October was 5.9%. The number of people working in Cameron swells each day to over 6,000 as mainly nonresident construction workers add to the workforce.

The top employment growth sectors in the parish when comparing the 2nd quarter of 2016 to the 2nd quarter of 2015 were: administrative and waste services up 150%; manufacturing up 37%; health care up 15%; Agriculture up 10%; and construction up 7.5%.

Oil and Gas

The total number of rigs working in Louisiana as of December 9th was 47, up 6 from 60 days ago. Offshore rigs were unchanged at 21. The U.S. count stood at 602, up 78. The price of oil has increased as inventories fell by 2.4 million barrels. BP announced increased activity at its Mad Dog project located 100 miles south of Grand Isle by investing \$9 billion.

Highlights of 2016 Accomplishments

- Obtained Foreign Trade Zone subzone for G2 LNG;
- Added 20 available sites to the inventory;
- Completed marketing brochure;
- Hosted 2 CNG, 11 restaurant, 3 fabricator, and 6 housing prospects; responded to 7 requests for information about sites for LED;
- Created a New Comer's Guide and newsletter;
- Created a Business Connections web portal;
- Merged the East and West Cameron Port Boards into one authority;
- Hosted 6 skilled crafts recruitment, 3 LA Works, 2 small business workshops, and 1 career fair event.

Port-o-Call Cameron is our new quarterly newsletter. If you would like to be added to our mailing list, please send an email to: cd_cppj@camtel.net.



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