



Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

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Media Advisory

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Coastal Bend Bays & Estuary Program to host Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Workshop

Coastal Bend Area Stakeholders invited to attend facilitated workshop.

WHO: The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program (CBBEP)
Texas General Land Office

WHEN: Tuesday, February 28, 2006
9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m. (Please see enclosed workshop agenda)

WHERE: Solomon P. Ortiz Center

WHAT: The Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program and the Texas General Land Office will host a **Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) Workshop** for the Texas Coastal Bend region on **Tuesday, February 28, 2006** from **9:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at the Solomon P. Ortiz Center. This facilitated workshop is designed to help local governments and organizations begin to develop local strategies and project ideas for the Coastal Impact Assistance Program.

This past year, U.S. Congress reauthorized the Coastal Impact Assistance Program (CIAP) as part of the 2005 Energy Bill. The CIAP allocates federal revenues to coastal states to mitigate impacts from oil and natural gas production in federal waters. Texas will receive an estimated \$160-\$240 million over four years beginning in fiscal year 2007.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 identifies the following uses for CIAP allocations in addition to administrative costs:

- Projects and activities for the protection and restoration of coastal areas.
- Mitigation of damage to fish, wildlife, or natural resources.
- Mitigation of the impacts of Outer Continental Shelf activities through funding of onshore infrastructure projects and public service needs.

The goal of the workshop is to bring together Coastal Bend Area Stakeholders to help develop strategies to maximize benefits of CIAP funding for the Coastal Bend region. Texas is expected to receive approximately \$60 million per fiscal year in CIAP funding from 2007 to 2010.

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