



Press Release

August 5, 2011

Storm Water Management Focus of Environmental Summit

Galveston County & Cities – The Galveston County Health District (GCHD) will be conducting an *Environmental Summit* on Wednesday, August 10th at the Texas City-La Marque Chamber of Commerce offices located at 9702 Emmett F. Lowry Expressway in Texas City. The summit will be held from 10 a.m. until 12 noon.

GCHD conducts summits to inform and educate the public about environmental issues of importance. Those expected to attend the summit include county and city elected officials, members of the Galveston County United Board of Health and the general public. This year's summit will focus on storm water management.

The Storm Water Management Program is a national program that regulates pollution carried by storm water runoff into waterways such as bays and bayous. Program regulations look at runoff from industry, construction and municipal water systems. In Texas the program is administered by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The Galveston County Health District has been delegated by the Galveston County Commissioner's Court to develop and implement Phase II of the county's Storm Water Management Plan in order to comply with regulations. The current storm water permit and storm water management plan is set to expire in August 2012.

GCHD's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Mark Guidry says, "The environment can have a big impact on our health and quality of life. A safe and healthy environment helps people to stay well and reduces injuries and illnesses. Keeping pollutants out of our waterways helps us in our efforts to create an overall healthy community."

This year's summit will focus on topics such as:

- Brief discussion of the current Galveston County Storm Water Management Plan
- Available "Best Practices" for storm water management in Texas
- Best practices in the power washing and cosmetic cleaning industry
- Public input on the future of storm water management

"We work very hard at all times to improve our services provided in the county," says Ronnie Schultz, Director of Environmental Programs. "By seeking input from community leaders and the general public we can effectively deal with storm water management in Galveston County."

Topics addressed in prior GCHD summits have included air and water environmental issues in Galveston County, water quality resources and issues and Phase 1 of the Storm Water Management program.

The Galveston County Health District includes environmental issues and services in its strategic health plan which is a tool guiding their activities through 2015. For more information on the Health District's Strategic Health Plan visit www.gchd.org/admin/strattoc.htm.

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