



Phyllis Saathoff

Executive Director/CEO

Phyllis Saathoff is an accomplished executive with over 25 years of service in the port industry. She holds a Bachelor of Science in Accounting, from the University of Houston-Clear Lake, is a certified public accountant and a certified Professional Port Manager®.

Phyllis began her maritime career at Port Freeport in 1992 serving as Managing Director and Interim Executive Port Director/CEO before joining the Port of Houston Authority in October 2012. Phyllis served in various capacities during her tenure at the Port of Houston Authority including, Chief People Officer and Deputy Executive Director of Corporate Affairs. Phyllis returned to Port Freeport in April 2016 as the Chief Executive Officer.

Under her leadership, Port Freeport has been successful in obtaining U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Chief's Report to Congress to deepen the Freeport Harbor Channel to 56 feet, obtaining a 2020 "new start" designation for commencement of construction, securing federal funding, and commencing dredging on the channel project in April 2021. Phyllis was also instrumental in initiating the development and financing of the Port's first container terminal and bringing new business and investment to the Port.

Phyllis has been recognized as one of the Top 10 Women in Gulf Transportation by Gulf Shipper Magazine. Past president of the National Association of Foreign-Trade Zones and former treasurer of the Texas Gulf Ports Association, Saathoff currently serves as Chairwoman on the Port Authority Advisory Committee to the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT), H-GAC Transportation Policy Council member, President of the Texas Ports Association, and serves on the board of directors for the National Waterways Conference. Phyllis also serves on the board of directors and executive committee of the Economic Development Alliance of Brazoria County and as a member of the University of Houston – Clear Lake College of Business Dean's Advisory Council.

Port Freeport is a leading port in the export of crude oil and natural gas liquids and ranked 6th in chemicals, 15th in foreign waterborne tonnage, and 26th in containers. A 2019 Economic Impact Study by Texas A&M Transportation Institute revealed that, nationally, the Freeport Harbor Channel generates 279,780 jobs and has a total economic output of \$149 billion. Port Freeport serves Atlantic Container Lines, AMPORTS, BASF, Chiquita Fresh N.A., CEMEX, CMA CGM, Dole Fresh Fruit, The Dow Chemical Company, Enterprise Products, Exxon Mobile, Freeport LNG, Glovis, Grimaldi Lines, Hoegh Autoliners, Kirby Marine, Liberty Global Logistics, Mammoet, MEGlobal, Phillips 66, Riviana Foods, Inc., Sallaum Lines, Tenaris, U.S Department of Energy, Wallenius Wilhelmsen, and Vulcan Materials Company.