



CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA
COUNTY JUDGE

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**Press Release
May 31, 2007**

Save the Date! Friday, June 1, 2007 at 10:00 am

Cameron County to Conduct Ground Breaking Ceremony at Isla Blanca Park

South Padre Island, TX – Cameron County is excited and proud to celebrate the addition of its newest amenity...a public boat ramp. The site was once used as a temporary landing for ferries to access South Padre Island due to the unfortunate partial Queen Isabella Memorial Causeway collapse was identified as the best location for this facility.

In July 2003, upon Cameron County locating the site that would least impact the environment and provide the best access to anglers, "Children's Beach" was selected and Cameron County then pursued seeking grant funds from the State Office of the Parks & Wildlife Department. Cameron County was successful and the public boat ramp will now be constructed on approximately 1 acre and will include a one lane launching ramp, a lighted parking area with approximately 20 car-trailer spaces, an access road, courtesy docks, a fish cleaning station and restrooms. This facility will provide anglers convenient access to the waters of the Laguna Madre and excellent fishing spots, such as South Bay, as well as other popular locations. The facility will be located at the most southern tip of the Island inside of Isla Blanca Park.

We found that the proposed facility was necessary in order to accommodate the volume of boat traffic that utilize South Padre Island as a launch destination. In reality, South Padre Island has no other public boat launch facilities.

The architectural firm who has worked on this Project is Gomez, Mendez, Saenz, Inc. from Brownsville and the Contractor selected for the construction is Zimmerman Construction from Burnet, Texas

The project cost is approximately \$889,348 of which a significant amount is being funded by the Boating Access Grant Program through the Texas Parks & Wildlife Agency and a match from the Cameron County Parks & Recreation Department.

Judge Cascos stated, "This new amenity at Isla Blanca Park will attract more tourists to the area."

THE PRESS IS INVITED TO COVER THE GROUND BREAKING CEREMONY. The address is 33174 State Park Road 100 behind Dolphin Cove. Press should set up by 9:45 am.

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For press information contact Bernardina Olvera, Cameron County Judge's Office, by phone: 956-544-0830, or by email: bernardina.olvera@co.cameron.tx.us.