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Alabama State Port Authority Annual Campaign Bags Area Trash from Three Mile Creek

Mobile, Alabama – May 4, 2016 – The Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA) completed its annual Three Mile Creek trash removal campaign netting over 40 cubic yards of trash and larger pieces of debris. The Authority's trash removal program, launched in 2014, is part of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program's Create a Clean Water Future public service campaign to help citizens understand the link between reducing polluted runoff and the preservation of a unique way of life built on Alabama's waterways.

Trash collected this year primarily comprised of plastic and aluminum beverage bottles, household cleaner bottles, motor oil cans, plastic jugs, tires, packaging, wood debris, plastic trash cans and buckets, and foam rubber. "Litter is a huge problem in our community, so the Port Authority is proud to help curb the impacts upstream litter on our waterways and raise awareness about litter in our community," said James K. Lyons, director and chief executive officer.

A cubic yard represents material measuring three feet wide, three feet long and three feet tall. Trash collected from this spring's cleanup of Three Mile Creek filled two 20-Yard industrial trash containers measuring 20 feet in length and eight feet in width. This year's volume is down drastically than collected in previous years with Lyons giving credit to the Mobile Bay NEP's campaign and Mobile Mayor Sandy Stimpson's "War on Litter." The Port Authority's clean up in 2015 netted over 200 cubic yard of trash – enough to fill three average sized swimming pools.

Common litter along city streets, commercial parking lots and even neighborhoods enter the storm water ditches that discharge into Three Mile Creek. The litter then flows downstream during rain events or high water flows. Once it nears the Mobile River, some of this trash encounters naturally occurring tidal action and settles on the shorelines of the Port Authority's property at the terminus of Three Mile Creek, which includes the Industrial Canal and the Mobile River. "I continue to be amazed at the amount of trash that flows downstream," said Lyons. "While we are making headway, there remains a lot of work to be done community wide."

Learn more about how citizens and companies can make a difference through these community resources www.cleanwaterfuture.com; www.keeppmobilebeautiful.com; www.cityofmobile.org/recycle/; and www.alabamacoastalcleanup.com

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Photo Caption: The Port Authority's contractor bagged over 40 cubic yards of trash from Three Mile Creek.