Coastal Texas Protection & Restoration, TX

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS **BUILDING STRONG®**

FACT SHEET as of February 14, 2014

Aftermath of Hurricane Ike to the Texas Gulf Coast near Pelican Island

AUTHORIZATION: Section 4091, WRDA of 2007 P.L. 110-114

TYPE OF PROJECT: Flood Risk Management

PROJECT PHASE: Feasibility

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Cornyn and Cruz (TX), **Weber (TX-14)**, Farenthold (TX 27), Green (TX-29), Vela (TX-34) and Stockman (TX-36).

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: The State of Texas, General Land Office

BACKGROUND: The study is authorized under Section 4091, WRDA of 2007 P.L. 110-114. This study will identify a complete body of data and recommend a comprehensive strategy for reducing flood risk through structural and nonstructural measures that take advantage of natural features like barrier islands and storm surge storage in wetlands. The study will be implemented in close coordination with other state and Federal shoreline and navigation studies being conducted along the Texas Gulf Coast. This is the first phase in confirming federal interest in the development of a comprehensive assessment/plan for the Texas Gulf Coast aimed at reducing hurricane risk. The study area consists of the entire Texas Gulf Coast from the mouth of the Sabine River to the mouth of the Rio Grande, and would include the Gulf and tidal waters, barrier islands, marshes, coastal wetlands, rivers and streams and adjacent areas that make up the interrelated ecosystem along the coast of Texas. This proposal is to determine the Federal interest in conducting feasibility studies to identify potential shoreline erosion control, storm damage reduction, environmental restoration and protection, and related improvements to the Texas Gulf Coast. For many years the coastal marshes and wetlands that are critical to both fresh and salt water fisheries, shorelines and barrier islands along the Texas coast have been ravaged by coastal storms, hurricanes, erosion, and other forms of degradation. In some areas along the coast, erosion rates in excess of 18 feet per year are occurring. The erosion is destroying nationally significant wetlands, damaging homes and commercial properties, even destroying coastal highways. All this destruction is resulting in a huge economic impact to the coastal region of Texas. The TX coastal zone is richly endowed with natural resources. Its mineral production, largely of oil and gas, has a value of nearly $1 billion a year. Another $156 million comes from commercial fisheries. The fertile soils along the coast produce agricultural products valued at $500 million a year and the tropical beaches attract about 3 million tourists who spend nearly $1.6 billion per year. The coastal counties contain 40% of the national petrochemical industry and 25% of the national petroleum-refining capacity, and three of the ten largest seaports.

STATUS: FY14 funds will be used to initiate and complete Reconnaissance study, prepare Project Management Plan, and execute a Feasibility Cost Share Agreement. A series of Public Scoping Meetings were held in August 2014 to gather information on problems and opportunities from all stakeholders. Meetings were conducted in South Padre Island, Corpus Christi, Palacios and League City. Currently we are setting up meetings with potential project sponsors to cost-share a feasibility study. Feasibility would be initiated in FY 2015.

ISSUES: Significant environmental and economic impacts have been caused by the continual erosion of the Texas coastline with specific impacts to wildlife areas, wetlands, barrier islands, and residential and commercial property. Forty percent of the nation's petrochemical industry, 25 percent of national petroleum-refining capacity, 8 deep draft ports (3 of the 10 largest US seaports), 750 miles of shallow draft channels (including 400 miles of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW)), and critical transportation infrastructure will continue to be at risk without a comprehensive plan to restore and maintain a robust coastal ecosystem aimed at reducing storm damage to industries and businesses critical to the nation's economy and protecting the health and safety of Texas coastal communities.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY ($):	**Feasibility**
Federal Cost Estimate	$1,600,000
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	$1,400,000
Total Project Cost	$3,000,000
Allocation thru FY 2011	$0
Allocation for FY 2012	$0
Allocation for FY 2013	$0
Allocation for FY 2014	$200,000
President Budget FY 2015	$200,000
Amount That Could Be Used In FY 2015	$200,000
Balance to Complete	$1,200,000

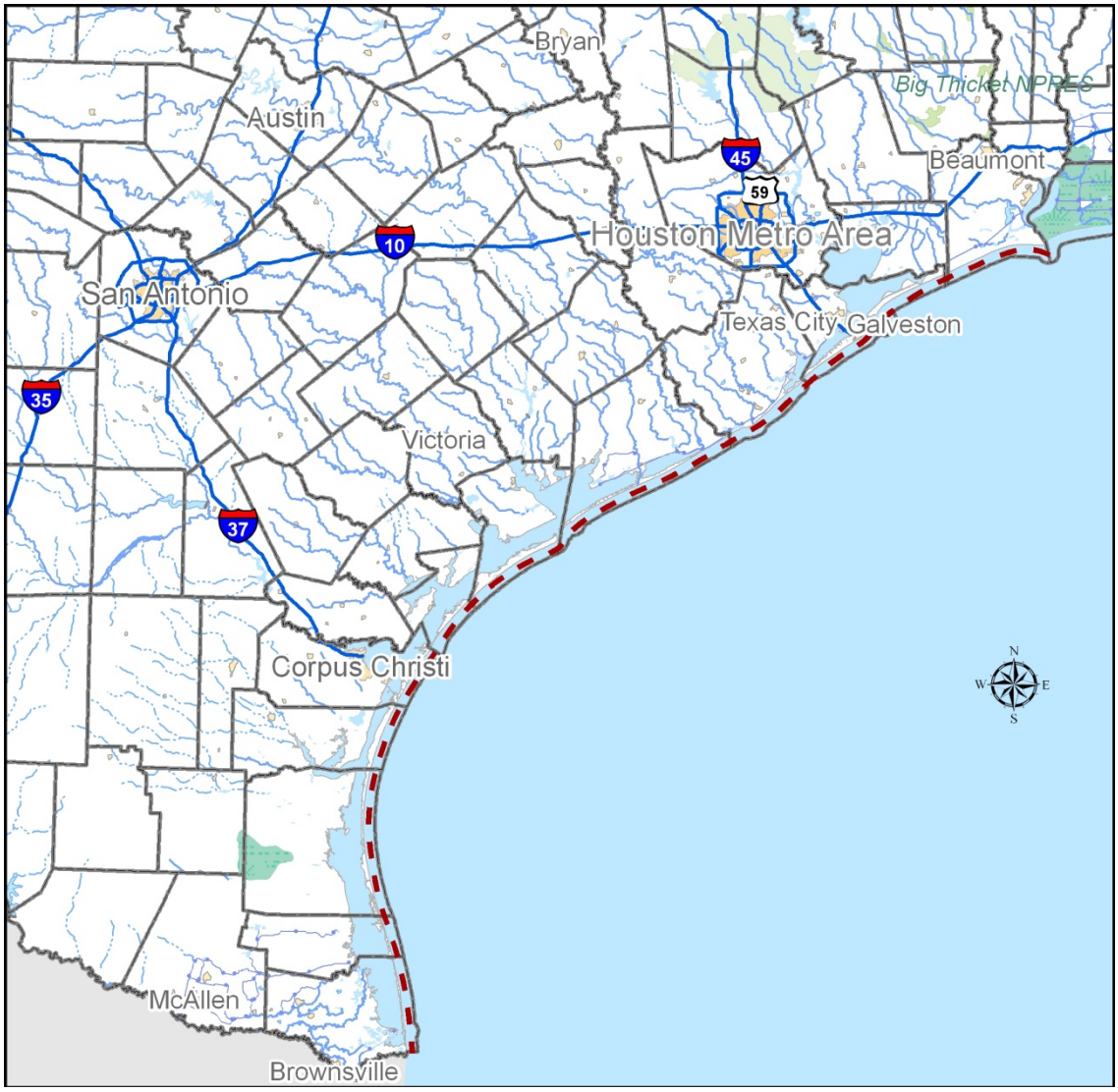
SCHEDULE:

FY 2014 Scheduled Work: FY14 funds will be used to initiate and complete a reconnaissance study, initiate a Project Management Plan, and negotiate a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement and possibly initiate the Feasibility phase.

FY 2015 Budget: FY2015 funds will be used to possibly initiate or continue the Feasibility phase, complete alternative milestone meetings and work toward identifying the Tentatively Selected Plan ($200,000).

COMPLETION: With optimum funding, the study completion date is September 2018 study.

For more information regarding the Coastal Texas Protection & Restoration, TX study, contact Mr. Edmond J. Russo, Jr, P.E. Deputy District Engineer for Project Management, Chief Programs and Project Management Division at 409-766-3018 or Edmond.J.Russo@usace.army.mil.



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