



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

FACT SHEET as of September 24, 2014

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AUTHORIZATION: RHC Doc. 16, 71st Congress, 2nd Session, 1930; as amended, Sec. 201, PL 99-662, 1986

TYPE OF PROJECT: Navigation

PROJECT PHASE: Operation and Maintenance



Beneficial Use of Dredge Material at South Padre Island

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST: Senators Cornyn and Cruz (TX), Representative Vela (TX-34)

NON-FEDERAL SPONSOR: Brownsville Navigation District, Port of Brownsville, Port Isabel, and the Texas General Land Office, which cost shares for beach nourishment

BACKGROUND: The Brazos Island Harbor deep draft navigation project consists of a 42-ft deep by 300-ft wide by approximately 23 miles long channel; extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Port of Brownsville and Port Isabel. A jettied entrance channel with a project depth of 44-ft connects to the main channel with a 42-ft project depth. The main channel leads to the Turning Basin at the Port of Brownsville, which has a 36-ft project depth. A side channel with a project depth of 36' leads to the Port Isabel and an adjacent shallow draft fishing boat harbor. The project also includes two rock jetties at the channel inlet; 1.39 and .96 miles in length.

The port of Brownsville is ranked #69 in the nation with respect to commercial tonnage (5.6 million tons total in 2012). The major commodities moved through the Port of Brownsville include: petroleum products, ores and minerals, steel and other metals, vegetable oils, and grains.

STATUS: Activities accomplished in FY 2014 included: maintenance dredging within portions of the Brownsville Ship Channel and the Brownsville Jetty Channel; work was completed in December 2013 and April 2014, respectively.

ISSUES: Commercial ship traffic, anticipated within the Port Isabel portion of the project, requires maintenance dredging to be completed by mid-FY 2015. There is currently insufficient funding within the Brazos Island Harbor project to perform this maintenance dredging.

Maintenance dredging was completed within the Brownsville Jetty Channel in April 2014. The Galveston District anticipates that this portion of the channel will require routine maintenance dredging, again, in October 2015 (the first month of FY 2016). However, if shoaling occurs quicker than anticipated, the channel could become restricted in late FY 2015.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY (\$):

	<u>O&M</u>
Federal Cost Estimate	N/A
Non-Federal Cost Estimate	N/A
Total Project Cost	N/A
Allocation thru FY 2011	\$ N/A
Allocation for FY 2012	2,414,000
Allocation for FY 2013	2,709,000
Allocation for FY 2014	4,568,000
President Budget FY 2015	6,300,000
Balance to Complete	N/A

SCHEDULE:

FY 2014 Scheduled Work: FY 2014 activities included maintenance dredging within the Brownsville Jetty Channel to advance maintenance depth.

FY 2015 Budget: FY 2015 activities will include maintenance dredging for Main Channel & Turning Basin to project depth (\$6,300,000). Additional funding could be utilized to dredge the Port Isabel channel to the Project Depth (\$1,950,000); dredge the Jetty Channel to project depth (\$2,650,000), Sea Turtle Trawling associated with hopper dredging (\$60,000), dredge the main channel and turning basin to advanced maintenance depth (\$3,500,000), and dredge the Jetty Channel to advanced maintenance depth (\$640,000).

COMPLETION: With optimum funding, the project/study completion date is N/A.

For more information regarding the Brazos Island Harbor, TX project, 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.

