

APPENDIX B
Letters of Intent from Potential non-Federal Sponsors



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
GEORGE P. BUSH, COMMISSIONER

March 30, 2015

Col. Richard P. Pannell
District Engineer and Commanding Officer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, TX 77553-1229

Re: Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study

Dear Col. Pannell:

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) is currently the non-Federal Sponsor for the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay Feasibility Study. In continuation of our partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to enhance coastal storm damage risk management, this letter is to express the GLO's interest in serving as a non-Federal sponsor for the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study along with regional partners that have committed or expressed an interest in participating.

The Coastal Texas study contemplates four regional studies for planning and evaluation of structural and non-structural measures for coastal storm risk management, complemented with incorporation of ecosystem restoration measures. The four studies will be scoped for schedule, tasks, and costs after the USACE's receipt of this and other letters of intent from potential sponsors and stakeholders.

It is the GLO's understanding that the Regions 2, 3 and 4 studies will meet the 3x3x3 Smart Planning Policy (\$3 Million x 3 Years x 3 Levels of Review) and cost sharing on each regional study would be 50% of total study costs. For Region 1, a high priority area for addressing coastal flood risks and ecosystem restoration, study costs are expected to exceed the Smart Planning Policy based on estimates scoped in 2013, and accordingly a required waiver from the Policy is anticipated.

The GLO appreciates that the Galveston District is actively pursuing collaboration with regional partners performing similar studies to determine the utility of the study products for incorporation into the Coastal Texas study, with the goal of lowering study costs, improving timeframes, and leveraging resources.

If you require any additional information or have questions regarding this Letter of Intent, please contact Jorge Ramirez at 512-475-5015, or by e-mail at jorge.ramirez@glo.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

Larry L. Laine
Chief Clerk and Deputy Land Commissioner

Jefferson County Courthouse
P.O. Box 4025
Beaumont, Texas 77704



Beaumont (409) 835-8466
Pt. Arthur (409) 727-2191 Ext. 8466
Facsimile (409) 839-2311

JEFF R. BRANICK
County Judge

September 24, 2014

Colonel Richard P. Pannell
Commander, Galveston District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
2000 Fort Point road
Galveston, Texas 77550

Subject: Sponsor Letter of Intent for Zone One Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration

Dear Colonel Pannell,

I am writing to advise you that Jefferson County wholeheartedly continues to support your efforts to restore our coastal area that was devastated by Hurricane Ike. I understand that you continue to endeavor to complete the Feasibility Study for this large project and that it is necessary that you have partners to support your efforts. As we suggested in our meeting of September 22, 2014, we would request that the portion of the study dedicated to Jefferson County be limited to efforts to protect the GIWW, installation of siphons under the GIWW and beneficial use of dredge material to decrease subsidence in the marsh and to evaluate the resiliency of a beach barrier that would accommodate a proposed roadway.

Jefferson County will continue to support your work and join with others in the cost sharing responsibility to enable you to complete your study. I understand that the estimated responsibility of Feasibility Costs is approximately \$1,500,000. which would be spread over the three-year period of the study. Please be advised that our 2015 budget has already been adopted and it will not be possible for us to amend that but it may be possible that we can use grant funds to satisfy our obligations in this cost share.

I thank you for your continued efforts in this monumental restoration project and for what it will mean not only to the citizens of our County but also to our nation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeff Branick", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Honorable Jeff Branick

City of Galveston



Office of the City Manager

P. O. Box 779 / Galveston, Texas 77553-0779 / (409) 797-3520 / Fax (409) 797-3521

January 6, 2015

Via CMRRR

Col. Richard P. Pannell
District Engineer and Commanding Officer
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District
P. O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Re: Letter of Intent for the Coastal Texas Study

This letter is to express the City of Galveston's interest in partnering with sponsors of the study for Region 1 of the Coastal Texas Study. This partnering would be in consideration with other regional partners that have also expressed interest in participating. We understand that the study may be initiated to perform planning and evaluation of structural and non-structural measures for coastal storm risk management, complemented with incorporation of ecosystem restoration measures for the Houston/Galveston Region.

We understand that cost sharing among the sponsors for the study would be 50% of total study costs. With the participation of the potential sponsor(s) and stakeholders, we understand that the study would be scoped for schedule, tasks, and costs after your receipt of this and other letters of intent. Costs for the Region 1 study are expected to exceed the Corps Planning policy (\$3M x 3Yrs x 3 Levels of Review) based on rough estimates that were scoped in 2013. The rough estimate at that time found that a study for the Houston/Galveston area would cost around \$10M and may take 4 to 5 years. An exemption from the 3x3x3 policy would be required, considering the high priority for addressing coastal flood risks and ecosystem restoration in this region. In addition, we understand that the Corps is actively pursuing collaboration with regional partners who are performing similar studies to ascertain the utility of the study products they are developing for incorporation into this work with the potential for lowering the study costs and timeframes for conducting the Federal study.

Please provide us with any additional information as it becomes available and any next steps required for participation in the study for Region 1 of the Coastal Texas Study.

Sincerely,

Brian Maxwell
City Manager



MATAGORDA COUNTY

NATE McDONALD

COUNTY JUDGE

October 14, 2014

RE: Letter of Intent

Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study

Dear Colonel Pannell,

I want to take a moment to thank you and your staff for last week's visit. I now have a clear understanding of and appreciation for the great projects in the offing for our State and County. Matagorda County looks forward to working with USACE to move this initiative forward. As we discussed in our meeting on October 6, 2014, the projects included in Matagorda County's Coastal Plan combine ecosystem services and sound engineering practices for infrastructure development to provide resiliency along our coast. Matagorda County encourages a Coastal Strategy that provides an integrated line of protection combining both natural and structural features. We strongly support the local projects that include structural measures such as groins and jetties and detached breakwaters to promote shoreline stabilization and wave attenuation to insure navigability of our nation's waters. Beneficial use of dredged material to decrease subsidence in our marshes and to support dunes and beaches as primary shoreline nature based infrastructure, also have much value in our estimation.

Matagorda County wishes to become the leader in a Coastal Planning Initiative and is willing to commit to secure the resources for the non-federal matching funds. It is our understanding that a \$1,500,000.00 match would be divided over the three-year feasibility study period and though we do not have County funds budgeted in 2015 for this study, our County is working to secure those funds to support our share of the important work performed by your staff. Matagorda County shares your agency's vision for sustainable solutions to reduce coastal storm impacts, and again look forward to working with USACE to this end. Please know that I appreciate your leadership in this effort and that we too look to lead our State's Counties in partnering with the USACE as we build a more robust County, State and Nation.

Sincerely,

Nate McDonald
County Judge
Matagorda County



Colonel Richard P. Pannell
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, Texas 77553

Re: Letter of Intent-Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study

Dear Colonel Pannell,

I want to begin by thanking you and your staff for meeting with representatives from Region IV on Friday, December 19th to explain the importance of partnering with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in conducting the Coastal Texas Protection and Feasibility study.

As you are aware, South Padre Island is a vital engine to the economy in Cameron County and the State of Texas. It is important that we continue supporting projects that will promote economic development such as tourism and projects that protect the infrastructure along our beautiful beaches in Cameron County. These projects include beneficial use of dredged material for beach nourishments, dune restoration, wetland restoration and shoreline protection and restoration. These significant projects are essential for coastal storm risk management and restoration to our ecosystem.

South Padre Island is interested in partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Region IV study of the Coastal Texas Protection and Feasibility Study pending a funding source that will allow us to participate. We understand that the study may be initiated to perform planning and evaluation of structural and non-structural measures for coastal storm risk management, complemented with incorporation of ecosystem restoration measures for South padre Island and the surrounding areas within Region IV. It is our understanding that cost sharing among the local sponsors for the study may be \$1,500,000.00 of the total study cost. We currently do not have funds budgeted to participate in this study, but will make efforts to see funds area available to support this study.

I appreciate your partnership and hard work in protecting our coast and look forward to continue partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on projects that will improve the quality of life for Cameron County and State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Bharat R. Patel
Mayor

"A Certified Retirement Community"



CARLOS H. CASCOS, CPA
COUNTY JUDGE

1100 E. MONROE STREET
BROWNSVILLE, TEXAS
78520

COUNTY COURTHOUSE
(956) 544-0830 FAX: (956) 544-0801
1-866-544-0830

December 30, 2014

Colonel Richard P. Pannell
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District
2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, Texas 77553

Re: Letter of Intent-Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Feasibility Study

Dear Colonel Pannell,

I want to begin by thanking you and your staff for meeting with representatives from Cameron County and South Padre Island on Friday, December 19th to explain the importance of partnering with the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers in conducting the Coastal Texas Protection and Feasibility Study. As you are aware, South Padre Island is a vital engine to the economy in Cameron County and the State of Texas. It is important that we continue supporting projects that will promote economic development such as tourism and projects that protect the infrastructure along our beautiful beaches in Cameron County. These projects include beneficial use of dredged material for beach nourishments, dune restoration, wetland restoration and shoreline restoration. These significant projects are essential for coastal storm risk management and restoration to our ecosystem.

Cameron County is interested in partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for the Region 4 study of the Coastal Texas Protection and Feasibility Study pending a funding source that will allow us to participate. We understand that the study may be initiated to perform planning and evaluation of structural and non-structural measures for coastal storm risk management, complemented with incorporation of ecosystem restoration measures for South Padre Island and Cameron County and surrounding areas within Region 4. It is our understanding that a cost sharing among the local sponsors for the study would be \$1,500,000.00 of the total study cost. We currently do not have funds budgeted to participate in this study, but will make efforts to seek funds to support this study. I appreciate your partnership and hard work in protecting our coast and look forward to continue partnering with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers on projects that will improve the quality of life for Cameron County and State of Texas.

Sincerely,

Carlos H. Cascos, CPA
County Judge

cc: Sofia C. Benavides, Commissioner Pct. 1
Alex Dominguez, Commissioner Pct.2
David A. Garza, Commissioner Pct. 3
Dan A. Sanchez, Commissioner Pct.4
Pete Sepulveda, County Administrator
David Garcia, Assistant County Administrator