

DISTRICT: Galveston

DATE: January 3, 2003

PROJECT NAME: Matagorda Ship Channel, Texas

LOCATION: The project is located in the vicinities of Port O'Connor, Port Lavaca, and Point Comfort in Matagorda, Calhoun and Jackson Counties, Texas.

CURRENT FUNDING CATEGORY: Operations and Maintenance, General

DESCRIPTION: The project provides a 25 mile deep draft channel extending from the Gulf of Mexico through a jettied entrance, across Matagorda Peninsula to the Point Comfort Turning Basin. The project also provides shallow draft channels of: Channel to Port Lavaca and Channel to Harbor of Refuge via the Matagorda Ship Channel. The project reaches and dimensions are tabulated below:

Outer Bar and Jetty Channels	38 X 300 feet
Channel to Point Comfort and Basin	36 X 200-1,000 feet
Channel to Port Lavaca and Lynn Bayou Turning Basin	12 X 125-340 feet
Channel to Harbor of Refuge and Basins	12 X 125-300 feet

Maintenance of the project to authorized dimensions is a Federal responsibility. Safe and efficient commercial navigation is of national interest.

FUNDING STATUS:

Expenditure for FY 02:	\$1,380,418.71
Obligation for FY 03:	\$1,718,000.00
Proposed President's Budget for FY 04:	\$4,690,000.00

COMPLETED OPERATIONS FOR FY 02: Maintenance dredging of the Channel to Port Lavaca and Harbor of Refuge.

PROJECTED OPERATIONS FOR FY 03: Maintenance dredging of Matagorda Peninsula to Point Comfort and maintenance dredging of entrance channel. Assumption of maintenance analysis for Point Comfort Turning Basin extension. Maintenance dredging of Entrance Channel.

PROPOSED OPERATIONS FOR FY 04: Maintenance dredging of Channel to Port Lavaca and Harbor. Ongoing monitoring/analysis of Entrance Channel. Maintenance dredging of Matagorda Peninsula to Point Comfort reach.

LOCAL CONTACTS: The Calhoun County Navigation District is the local project sponsor for deep draft portion of the Matagorda Ship Channel. The City of Port Lavaca is the local project sponsor for Channel to Port Lavaca and the Channel to Harbor of Refuge.

ISSUES AND OTHER INFORMATION: Dredged material is assessed for pollutants prior to dredging. Seasonal dredging is a requirement that limits dredging during bird nesting season. Archeological concerns also impact the project. A small portion of the project passes through an EPA designated Superfund Site. Statistics compiled for calendar year 1996 show a movement of 9,151,000 tons of commerce.

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