



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF:

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P.O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

September 8, 2005

Notice of Availability
Final Environmental Impact Statement
Cedar Bayou Navigation Channel
Channel Improvement Project
Chambers and Harris Counties, Texas

The Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Cedar Bayou Navigation Channel – Channel Improvement Project, Chambers and Harris Counties, Texas is available for public comment. The 30-day comment period starts on publication of the Notice of Availability in the Federal Register on September 16, 2005 and closes on October 17, 2005, unless an extension is requested and granted in writing. The local sponsor for the project is the Chambers County – Cedar Bayou Navigation District.

Project Description

The project is located on the upper Texas coast in Chambers and Harris Counties, Texas in Cedar Bayou at the upper end of Galveston Bay. Cedar Bayou is a short, sluggish stream that forms the boundary between Chambers and Harris Counties. The project will provide an improved shallow-draft channel from the end of the present shallow-draft channel in Cedar Bayou at about Mile 3 to the State Highway 146 Bridge at Mile 11. The channel extension will have the same dimensions (10 ft. deep by 100 ft. wide) as the existing navigation channel in the lower bayou. Because the existing bayou is near these dimensions, little dredging is required, except at some bends and the Devils Elbow Bypass Channel. All dredged new-work material will be placed in two fully confined upland placement areas (PAs) or used to create approximately 80 acres of marsh in Ijams Lake, a shallow embayment at the edge of the bayou. The new navigation channel will require maintenance on an average of every 10 years and all dredged maintenance material will be placed in the two upland PAs.

National Environmental Policy Act Coordination

Three Public Scoping Meetings were held on March 22, 2000, December 11, 2000, and March 16, 2004 to explain the project to the public and gather comments and information. One additional public meeting was held during the Draft EIS review period on March 16, 2005 to explain the project and provide the public an opportunity to comment on the project. The Draft EIS was published on February 18, 2005, with the comment period closing on April 4, 2005.

Final Environmental Impact Statement

The Final EIS is available for public review and comment online at <http://www.swg.usace.army.mil>, and by request on compact disc or hard copy. Due to the expense of printing hard copies, only limited numbers are available. Please direct your request for copies, extension of comment period, comments, or questions to Dr. Terry Roberts at (409) 766-3035 (terrell.w.roberts@usace.army.mil) or Mr. Robert VanHook at (409) 766-3024 (robert.c.vanhook@usace.army.mil). The mail address to send comments or a request for extension of the comment period is provided on the letterhead.


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