APPENDIX F

Public Meetings

June 2, 2004

Planning and Environmental Branch

Notice of Studies and Initial Public Scoping Meeting for Texas City Channel, Texas Limited Reevaluation Study

Introduction

This notice provides a summary of the ongoing and planned reevaluation study activities for the Texas City Channel, Texas and solicits public input regarding the study. The primary purpose of the authorized Texas City Channel project is to improve the navigational efficiency and safety of the existing waterway for movement of commerce. An opportunity also exists for environmental restoration through the beneficial use of dredged material. Recreation demands and needs of the area may also be addressed by using dredged material to enlarge the Texas City Dike.

Study Background

The Texas City Channel, shown in Figure 1, is a Federal deep-draft navigation channel serving the Port of Texas City in Galveston County, Texas. The existing project consists of a channel 40 feet deep, 400 feet wide and about 6.75 miles long, from Bolivar Roads to a turning basin at Texas City; and an Industrial Canal, extending a distance of 1.7 miles southwestward from the south end of Texas City Turning Basin; and ends at a turning basin. The Texas City Channel is protected from cross currents and shoaling by the Texas City Dike, which is 28,200 feet long, parallel to and north of the channel; and a rubble-mound dike, 27,600 feet long, along the southerly side of the pile dike. The 40-foot channel was completed in June 1967. Widening and realigning of the Texas City Turning Basin and enlargement through widening and deepening of the Industrial Canal and basins was initiated in July 1980 and completed in June 1982. The only work remaining is deferred construction consisting of widening the Industrial Canal from 250 feet to 300 feet at 40 feet depth.

At the request of the local sponsor, Congress has directed the Secretary of the Army to conduct this study. Section 201 of the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1986, Public Law 99-662, dated 17 November 1986, authorized the Texas City Channel 50-Foot project. The Texas City Channel Project Review and Assessment was submitted by the Corps of Engineers in September 1997. The results of the assessment revealed that the project was still economically justified, but put in question whether the 50-foot project was still the optimum depth for the Texas City Channel project.

material quantities for placement; evaluating placement areas; formulating the dredged material management plan; and further refining the cost and constructibility of the recommended plan. As a result of the reevaluation study, final decision and supporting technical documents will be produced which identify the recommended plan.

Purpose of Public Scoping Meeting

The Galveston District will hold the initial Public Scoping Meeting for the Limited Reevaluation Study on:

Date: June 22, 2004

Location: Charles T. Doyle Convention Center
2010 5th Avenue
Texas City, TX 77590

Time: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

The purpose of this public scoping meeting will be to inform the community about the proposed study and how the study will be conducted. The public will be provided the opportunity to help the Galveston District and the Non-Federal Sponsor, the City of Texas City, identify environmental concerns, identify study efforts needed to resolve these concerns, and to meet the National Environmental Policy Act requirements for preparing a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement. Every effort will be made to address concerns/issues identified. This notice serves as an invitation to the public to attend. The public will be provided an opportunity to make comments.

Specifically, public input is requested concerning:

- Operational issues associated with the Texas City Channel;
- Channel associated modifications that could improve the quality of the environment in the overall public interest;
- Issues associated with current dredged material disposal practices;
- Opportunities for the beneficial uses of dredged material; and
- Development of the long-term disposal plan.

Please write to the address shown on the first page of this notice if you have information or questions concerning the study. Written comments will be accepted for 30 days following the meeting or until July 22, 2004. If you need additional information or have questions concerning this notice, please contact Mr. Steve Ireland by phone at (409) 766-3131 or by email at steven.k.ireland@usace.army.mil or Ms. Kim Crawford at (409) 766-3146 or by email at kim.n.crawford@usace.army.mil.

LEONARD D. WATERWORTH
Colonel, US Army Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

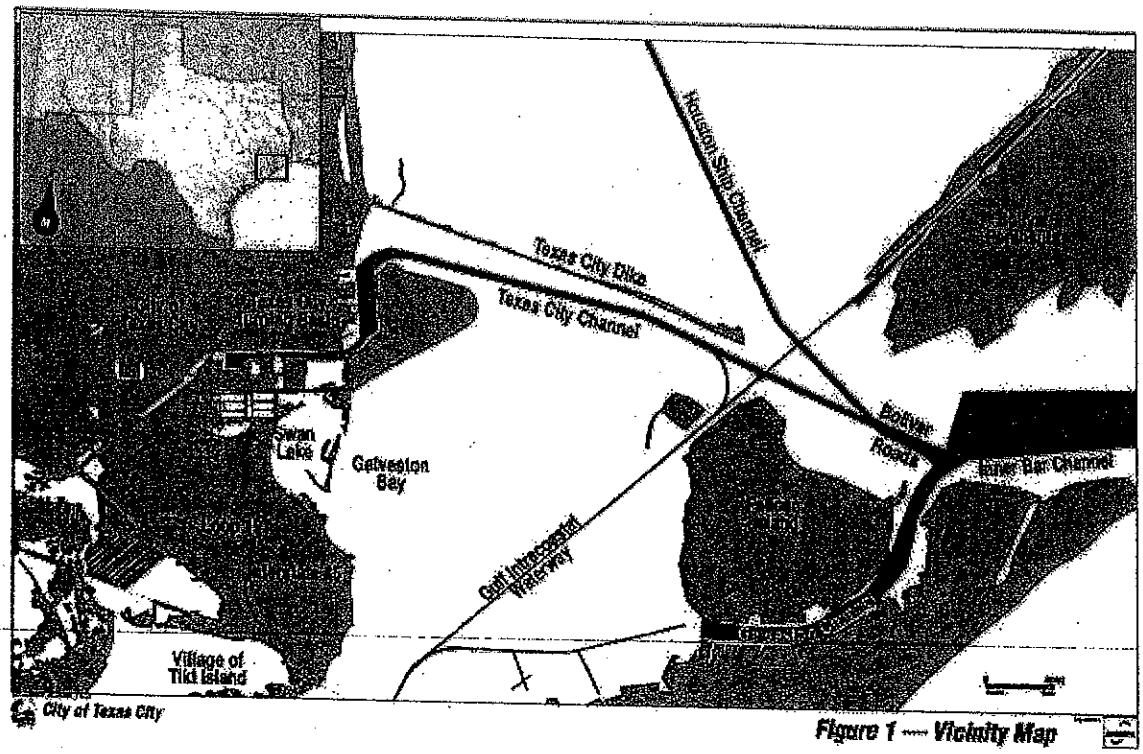

Figure 1 — Vicinity Map

Study Status

In a letter to the Galveston District dated April 12, 2001, the project sponsor, the City of Texas City, requested reactivation of the Texas City Channel project. Their request was based on the emergence of the Shoal Point Container Terminal project and the Port of Texas City and the Texas City Channel Users' renewed interest in deepening the Texas City Channel and existing turning basin to a depth of 45 feet. Preliminary alternatives to be evaluated in the Feasibility Phase include:

- Deepening from the Texas City Channel to 44- and 45-feet;
- Using Dredged Material to enhance the Texas City Dike.

Study Process

Study requirements contained in USACE regulations allow for projects to deviate from the National Economic Development (NED) plan and/or the National Ecosystem Restoration (NER) plans if requested by the non-Federal sponsor and approved by ASA (CW). Plans requested by the non-Federal sponsor that deviate from these plans are identified as the Locally Preferred Plan (LPP). The City of Texas City's LPP is a 45-ft x 400-ft navigation channel, which is less than the previously identified 50-ft x 600-ft NED Plan.

The scope for the reevaluation study will include preliminary screening of two channel depths (44 and 45 feet) and one channel width (400 feet) during the initial plan formulation phase. At the conclusion of the preliminary screening, the project sponsor will have the opportunity to reaffirm that the LPP is the 45-ft x 400-ft so long as the net benefits are not maximized at the shallower depth. The plan formulation phase of this study will consist of verifying dredged

APPENDIX G

References

Enright, J.J. and J.M. Enright and R.L. Gearhart II and D.S. Jones
2005 Diving Assessment of Two Anomalies for Historic Properties Investigations, Texas City Channel Improvements Project, Galveston County, Galveston Bay, Texas. Prepared for USACE, Galveston District

Gearhart, R.L. II and D.S. Jones and J.M. Enright and J. Enright and T. Summerville
2005 Close-Order Remote-Sensing Survey of Five Anomalies and Proposed Channel Modifications for Historic Properties Investigations, Texas City Channel Improvements, Galveston Bay, Texas. Prepared for USACE, Galveston District.

Hoyt, S.D. and E.R. Foster and J. S. Schmidt
1998 Intensive Archival Research, Close-Order Magnetometer Survey, Dating, and Offshore Diving, Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels, Texas Project, Galveston Harris, Liberty and Chambers Counties, Texas Offshore, Galveston

Jones. D.S. and J.M. Enright and J. Watts and R.L Gearhart II.
2002 Side-Scan Sonar, Magnetometer and Bathymetry survey to map oyster Habitat and Submerged Cultural Resources for the Proposed Shoal Point Container Terminal, Galveston Bay, Texas. Prepared for the City of Texas City.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District, 1998. Consistency Determination for Texas City Channel, Texas for the Texas Coastal Coordination Council, July 10, 1998.