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

August 31, 2004

Environmental Section

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Enclosed is a Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) addressing the designation of an additional area for beach nourishment using dredged material from the Jetty Channel of the Brazos Island Harbor Project, Cameron County, Texas. The proposed area is located along the beach at Isla Blanca County Park on South Padre Island. This DEA incorporates, by reference, much of the information contained in a previous environmental assessment prepared for similar work along other areas of South Padre Island. The previous EA is also provided for your information.

Persons desiring to express their views or provide information to be considered in evaluating the impact of this work are requested to mail their comments to:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, Galveston
ATTN: CESWG-PE-PR
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

or E-mail to: robert.g.hauch@usace.army.mil

The comments should make specific reference to this DEA, and must be submitted to the above address on, or before September 22, 2004. Any questions concerning the proposed action may be directed to Mr. Rob Hauch (409) 766-3913.

for Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure

US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Galveston District

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

BRAZOS ISLAND HARBOR, TEXAS

EXTENSION OF BEACH NOURISHMENT AREA ON SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, GALVESTON

GALVESTON, TEXAS

AUGUST 2004

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DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

BRAZOS ISLAND HARBOR, TEXAS
EXTENSION OF BEACH NOURISHMENT AREA ON SOUTH PADRE ISLAND

1.0 PROPOSED PLAN

1.1 PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Environmental Assessment (EA) supplements and incorporates by reference a previous EA for beach nourishment entitled: *Environmental Assessment, Brazos Island Harbor, Texas, Alternative Placement Area on South Padre Island, Cameron County, Texas* dated October 1996. The affected environment and impacts associated with the proposed action would be similar to those described in the previous EA; so will not be repeated in this document. This EA will describe only the proposed action, along with any topics necessary due to changes in regulatory requirements, or otherwise not addressed in the previous EA.

The work described in this EA involves establishment of an additional dredged material placement area to be used for beach nourishment on South Padre Island during routine maintenance of the federally-maintained navigation project. Material dredged from this channel consists of beach-quality sand, and placement of this material along the beach will replace some of the sand lost to erosion, thereby providing a beneficial use of dredged material. The new area does not replace previously designated areas; they will continue to be available for dredged material placement.

The proposed plan is to allow discharge of beach-quality dredged material from the channel onto the beach along Isla Blanca Park, on South Padre Island, Texas (Figure 1). The additional area would extend from the northern jetty to a point 6,000 feet north of the channel. At this point the new area would adjoin the existing beach nourishment site to form a continuous beach nourishment zone that spans a distance of about 30,000 feet north from the jetty.

The entire zone will not receive sand during any particular dredging job; the actual discharge location would vary depending on nourishment needs and the quantity of available material. During dredging operations, material will be placed on the beach at an elevation up to approximately 5 feet above National Geodetic Vertical Datum (NGVD). After placement, the material will be graded to match the seaward slope of the adjacent beach. A typical placement profile is depicted in Figure 2. Deposition of the material will avoid existing dunes and

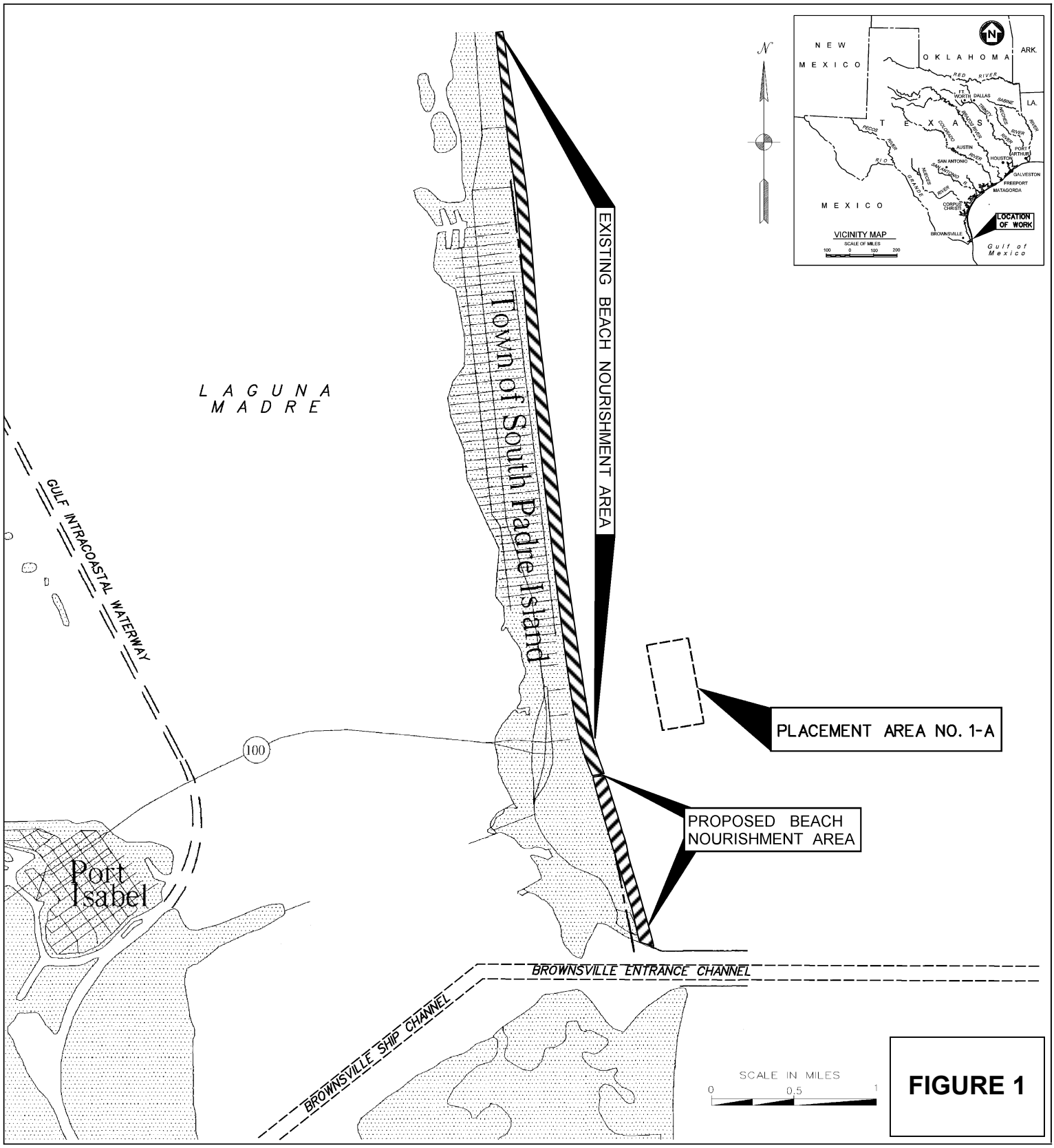
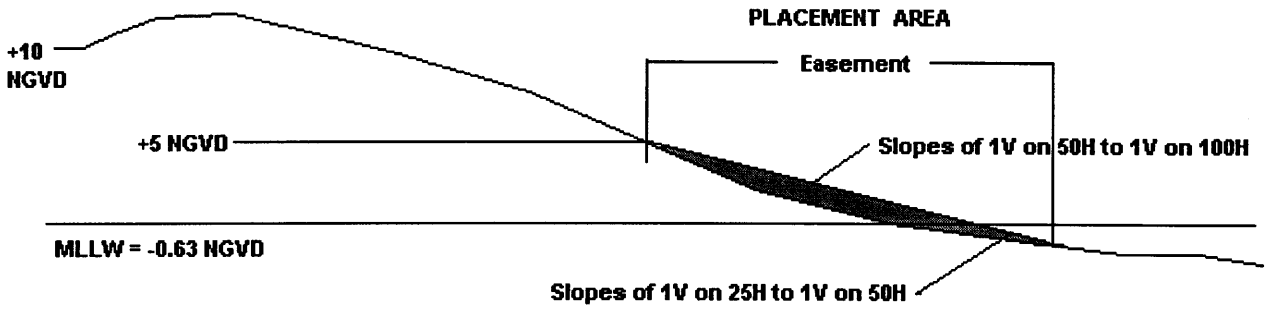

EXISTING BEACH NOURISHMENT AREA
Town of South Padre Island
LAGUNA MADRE
GULF INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY
100
Port Isabel
PLACEMENT AREA NO. 1-A
PROPOSED BEACH NOURISHMENT AREA
BROWNSVILLE ENTRANCE CHANNEL
BROWNSVILLE SHIP CHANNEL
SCALE IN MILES
0
0.5
1
N
NEW MEXICO
OKLAHOMA
ARK.
LA.
TEXAS
MEXICO
RED RIVER
FT. WORTH
DALLAS
SABINE RIVER
PECOS RIVER
COLORADO RIVER
BRAZOS RIVER
TRINITY RIVER
NECHES RIVER
AUSTIN
SAN ANTONIO
HOUSTON
PORT ARTHUR
GALVESTON
FREEPORT
MATAGORDA
RIO GRANDE
NUECES RIVER
SAN ANTONIO RIVER
CORPUS CHRISTI
BROWNSVILLE
LOCATION OF WORK
Gulf of Mexico
VICINITY MAP
SCALE OF MILES
100 0 100 200

FIGURE 1

FIGURE 2

TYPICAL PROFILE

BRAZOS ISLAND HARBOR, TEXAS
ALTERNATIVE PLACEMENT AREA



vegetated areas along the back beach. Subsequent placement opportunities may include discharge of material into the surf zone, thus allowing natural processes to winnow out the fines and allow currents to distribute the material along the shoreline. It is possible that some consolidated clay balls will be dredged up along with the sand. These clay balls will be removed by the dredging contractor.

Typically, based on an estimated quantity of 400,000 cubic yards (CY) per dredging event, approximately 70 acres of beach fill would result. Of this area, about 20 acres of beach would be above high tide (about +3.5 NGVD). Placement of the material would begin above the high tide line, but below the vegetation line and advance toward the surf zone. The material will not be confined during discharge; an energy dissipater will be used at the end of the discharge pipe to reduce flow velocity and prevent scour. As the discharge progresses, the beach berm will grow toward the Gulf so that discharge directly into the surf zone is generally not anticipated. However, surf-zone discharge may be performed if necessary to achieve the desired beach profile. Based on a quantity of 400,000 CY, approximately 5,000 feet of beach can be nourished. The existing beach profile is not uniform, so the width of the beach fill will vary. The filled area can extend as wide as 600 feet and could reach as much as 400 feet into the surf zone when the water level is at high tide. Regardless of the quantity of material, the typical target profile would remain relatively constant, but the length of beach that can be nourished would vary.

Proposed beach nourishment activities will generally be scheduled to take place only during the period from November 1 until December 25, for any given year. This schedule was established through coordination with City and County officials, and after consideration of safety and public access. The duration of dredging and beach nourishment operations is about two weeks. This work can be performed by either hopper dredge with pump-out capability or cutterhead dredge. However, it is anticipated that cutterhead dredges will be used routinely for these operations. Dredging contract specifications will require the use of cutterhead dredges, whenever possible.

This EA only addresses changes in the authorized dredged material placement plan. The work described identifies an additional dredged material placement area to be used for routine maintenance of the federally-maintained navigation project.

Improvements to the channel and subsequent maintenance dredging of the BIH project were addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) (USACE, 1979) that was completed and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on March 13, 1981. In the EIS and subsequent EAs (USACE, 1988, 1996), a designated offshore placement area and beneficial uses for the deposition of dredged materials from the Entrance Channel were

identified. Maintenance dredging of the Entrance Channel is required approximately every two years. The proposed action provides for continued periodic maintenance of the channel to its existing dimensions.

No operations by others are covered by this EA. Non-Federal activities are regulated by the Department of the Army permit program.

2.0 PROJECT ALTERNATIVES

2.1 PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The proposed action addressed in this EA is the preferred alternative. It involves the beneficial use of dredged material to nourish the beach along the southern part of South Padre Island. This action will replace some of the sand lost through erosion and provide some additional shore protection resulting from a wider beach.

Under this alternative, the existing beach nourishment area and nearshore berm described in previous EAs will continue to be available for use. The addition of this beach nourishment area provides the opportunity to deposit sand, where needed, anywhere along the beach from the jetty to a point approximately 30,000 feet north of the jetty.

2.2 UPLAND PLACEMENT ALTERNATIVE

This alternative would involve depositing dredged material into an upland area. In order to minimize environmental impacts from the flow of material and entrained water, a levee system would be needed for confinement. This would involve altering the local terrain using heavy earth-moving equipment in areas that probably had not previously experienced such impacts. Additionally, pipelines would be needed to convey the material to the placement area. Depending on the location of such an area, these pipelines would possibly cross roads or sensitive habitat. Heavy equipment would also be needed to handle the pipe. This alternative would not provide a beneficial use of the dredged material.

2.3 PLACEMENT INTO THE LAGUNA MADRE

This alternative would involve discharge of the material directly into the Laguna Madre. The placement area could be unconfined or confined; a potential beneficial use, such as bird-island creation could be implemented. Creation of new areas would result in impacts that were not previously experienced at these locales, such as burial of submerged aquatic vegetation along

with temporary increases in total suspended solids during discharge operations. Potential beneficial uses associated with this alternative are not justified based on the impacts that would be experienced.

2.4 NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE

The no-action alternative entails continued use of the existing placement areas. These include deposition of dredged material into an offshore placement area located beyond the littoral drift, and beneficial uses in the nearshore berm and the beach nourishment area north of Isla Blanca Park. The no-action alternative is acceptable because impacts have been adequately described and beneficial uses such as beach nourishment can be realized. However; this alternative limits beach nourishment opportunities and would not provide a remedy to repair eroded beachfront along Isla Blanca Park.

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT

The affected environment is described in the previous EA with the exception of the items discussed below.

3.1 ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

This EA continues Essential fish habitat (EFH) consultation under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSFCMA) that was initiated in the Public Notice issued for this action. The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) will review this EA and provide comments regarding compliance with the requirements of this Act.

Essential fish habitat consists of those habitats necessary for spawning, breeding, feeding, or growth to maturity of species managed by Regional Fishery Management Councils, as described in a series of Fishery Management Plans, pursuant to the MSFCMA. The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) has identified habitats in the project area as EFH for juvenile, and adult red drum (*Sciaenops ocellatus*); adult Spanish mackerel (*Scomberomorus maculatus*); juvenile white shrimp (*Litopenaeus setiferus*) and Pink Shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus duorarum*); juvenile and adult brown shrimp (*Farfantepenaeus aztecus*); and juvenile and adult stone crab (*Menippe adina*).

In addition to EFH designated for red drum, Spanish mackerel, and shrimp, the project vicinity provides nursery and foraging habitat that supports various forage species and recreationally important marine fishery species such as spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*),

black drum (*Pogonias cromis*), sheepshead (*Archosargus probatocephalus*), southern flounder (*Paralichthys lethostigma*), Atlantic croaker (*Micropogonias undulatus*), Gulf menhaden (*Brevoortia patronus*), pinfish (*Lagodon rhomboides*), striped mullet (*Mugil cephalus*), spot (*Leiostomus xanthurus*), bay anchovy (*Anchoa mitchilli*), and tidewater silverside (*Menidia peninsulae*). Some of these organisms also serve as prey for other fisheries managed under the MSFCMA by the GMFMC (e.g., red drum, mackerels, snappers, and groupers) and highly migratory species managed by the NMFS (e.g., billfishes and sharks).

EFH for those species that may occur in the project area and may be affected by the proposed action include sand and shell substrates, and the water column.

3.2 THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Subsequent to completion of the previous EA, no additional threatened of endangered species have been listed. However, critical habitat for wintering populations of piping plover was designated in the project vicinity (*Federal Register* (66)132:36038). Critical Habitat Unit TX-1 is located directly across the ship channel from the proposed beach nourishment area. Unit TX-2 is located along the margin of the Laguna Madre approximately 3,000 feet from the project area. Although no critical habitat exists in the immediate project area, piping plovers may be found within the proposed beach nourishment site.

Potential impacts to sea turtles were addressed in the previous EA; however, a recent increase in sea turtle nesting activity is being experienced along the Texas Coast as "Head-Started" Kemp's ridleys mature and reproduce. Despite efforts to imprint these turtles in an attempt to coax them to nest at predetermined sites, the turtles are nesting at unintended locations. It is therefore possible that nesting activity may occur in the project vicinity.

3.3 WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY

3.3.1 Water Quality

The project site is located along the Gulf of Mexico shoreline near the Entrance Channel of the Brownsville Channel at Brazos Santiago Pass. There are no industrial or municipal discharges that would degrade water quality in the vicinity. Historical data regarding metals, several pesticides, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, (USACE, 1990, 1994, 1998, 2000) indicate that the water quality is generally good. Recent data on samples collected in April 2004, also indicate that water quality is good. None of the contaminants of concern exceeded applicable EPA Water Quality Criteria or Texas Surface Water Quality Standards. These data

together with a list of analytes evaluated but not detected and an aerial photograph depicting sample sites, are located in Appendix B.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) assessed the Gulf of Mexico as fully supporting contact recreation and general uses (TCEQ, 2002). However, these uses along with aquatic life use and oyster waters use, were not assessed for the Port Isabel Area. Fish Consumption use and overall use is not supported due to high levels of mercury in king mackerel of a size greater than 43 inches.

3.3.2 Sediment Quality

The sediments at the project site consist of recently deposited sands transported by littoral currents. Historical data of this deposited material in the navigation channel (USACE, 1990, 1994, 1998, 2000) and recent data located at Appendix B indicate that the sediment quality is good.

Elutriate data are also included in Appendix B. The elutriate test was designed to forecast levels of dissolved constituents resulting from the hydraulic dredging process. The elutriate is prepared by creating a slurry which is then agitated to determine if contaminants associated with the sediment particles are resuspended into the water column. These data further indicate that the water quality in the project vicinity is good. None of the contaminants of concern exceeded applicable EPA Water Quality Criteria or Texas Surface Water Quality Standards.

Sediments that collect in the jettied segment of the Entrance Channel between dredging cycles have been regularly sampled for size characteristics since the early-1990s. The average sediment grain size is given in Table 1. Some of the data from which this table was derived is located at Appendix B. The sediment in this channel reach is primarily sand with silt and a small clay fraction. The D_{50}, which gives the median grain size, indicates an overall particle size characteristic of fine sand.

TABLE 1
SEDIMENT AND GRAIN SIZE ANALYSIS

PROJECT SEGMENT	AVERAGE COMPOSITION (%)*			D_{50} (mm)
	SAND	SILT	CLAY	
Entrance Channel (Between Jetties)	66.4	24.4	9.3	0.132

3.4 TEXAS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (TCMP)

The Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 requires that all land-use changes in the project area be conducted in accordance with approved state coastal zone management programs. Any project that is located in or that may affect land and water resources in the Texas coastal zone and that requires a Federal license or permit, or is a direct activity of a Federal agency, or is federally funded must be reviewed for consistency with the TCMP. The proposed action is within the coastal boundary defined by the TCMP and will accomplish several of the stated objectives of the program by using dredged material in a beneficial manner to offset effects of erosion, provide shore protection, enhance public beaches, and benefit the sediment budget and littoral system.

3.5 ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

In compliance with Executive Order (EO) 12898, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority and Low-Income Populations, an analysis has been performed to determine whether the proposed project will have a disproportionate adverse impact on minority or low-income population groups in the vicinity of the project area. This analysis consisted of determining characteristics of residential populations in the project area.

The project area is located within Cameron County, Census Tract 123.02, Block Group 1 which includes all of South Padre Island. However, all residential areas are located along the lower part of the island. The total population of this tract, based on the 2000 Census, is 3,640 individuals living in 1,836 households. A breakdown of the population shows that 95.5 percent of the population is white; 16.3 percent of this segment of the population consider themselves to be of Hispanic or Latino origin. Other ethnic groups include 0.5 percent African American, 1.1 percent Native American, 0.4 percent Asian, 0.1 percent Pacific Islander, and 2.5 percent other. (USCB, 2004). The per capita income in 1999 was $30,031 with about 11.0 percent of the population or 9.9 percent of households living below the poverty level (USCB, 2004).

There are no residential areas in the immediate project vicinity. The beach area addressed in this EA is situated within Isla Blanca Park, a county-run public facility.

4.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

4.1 IMPACTS ON ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT

The proposed action will affect EFH only minimally and temporarily. Increased water-column turbidity will be localized and short term. No impacts to marsh or nursery areas are anticipated. Some sand substrate in the surf zone will be displaced by the addition of new sand. The amount of bottom surface disturbed will be a small percentage of the total available bottom. The nourished beach area will serve as a substrate for organisms that serve as food for managed species. Since any potential impacts are expected to be temporary and minor in individual or cumulative effects, mitigation for these impacts is not required.

4.2 IMPACTS ON THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

Piping plover critical habitat was designated in the project vicinity; however, the beach at South Padre Island was not so designated. No beach nourishment operations will be conducted within critical habitat. The project site is not likely to be an important feeding and resting area for piping plover due to year round human recreational use. Construction activities during the placement of material on the beach may temporarily preclude its use by piping plover for feeding and resting. The duration of the activity will be temporary and size of the construction area would not be large enough to cause any significant loss of habitat for the piping plover. The resultant additional beach will provide additional habitat for piping plovers that might use the area. Therefore, no impacts to piping plovers or critical habitat will occur as a result of the proposed activity.

Although it is possible that sea turtles may use the beach in the project area for nesting, the proposed beach nourishment activities will be performed during the period November through late December. This timeframe is outside the sea turtle nesting season. Therefore, no impacts to sea turtles will occur as a result of the proposed activity.

4.3 IMPACTS ON WATER AND SEDIMENT QUALITY

Some elevation in suspended solids is expected to result from dredged material discharge operations onto the beach. The material will not be confined during discharge; an energy dissipater will be used at the end of the discharge pipe to reduce flow velocity and prevent scour. The water entrained during hydraulic dredging will be allowed to flow into the Gulf, thereby resulting in a temporary elevation of total suspended solids (TSS) from any fine-grained sediments excavated along with the sand. Operations generally take about two weeks to be

completed. This TSS will be rapidly dissipated by wave action once discharge operations are concluded. This resuspension is expected to very localized and will probably be similar to natural levels during periods of heavy wave action.

Elutriate quality data collected from the navigation channel indicate that little or no resuspension of contaminants would occur during hydraulic dredging or beach nourishment activities. Bulk sediment quality data also indicate that the channel sediments are suitable for beach nourishment.

Except for elevated levels of TSS, the proposed beach nourishment should have no adverse impacts on water and sediment quality. Any impacts are expected to be minor and will be temporary, occurring only during the dredging period, which is expected to be about two weeks.

4.4 IMPACTS ON TEXAS COASTAL MANAGEMENT PROGRAM

The proposed action is within the coastal boundary defined by the TCMP and will accomplish several of the stated objectives of the program by using dredged material in a beneficial manner to offset effects of erosion, provide shore protection, enhance public beaches, and benefit the sediment budget and littoral system.

Therefore, the proposed action is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the goals and policies of the TCMP (Appendix C). A letter from the Coastal Coordination Council (CCC) indicating their agreement that the proposed action is in compliance with the TCMP is included in Appendix C.

4.5 IMPACTS ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

There are no residential areas in the immediate project vicinity. The beach area addressed in this EA is situated within Isla Blanca Park, a county-run public facility. Since the project area is isolated from human habitation, it will not create adverse environmental impacts on any person or group of people. Therefore, there will be no disproportionate share of adverse environmental impacts on any minority, low income, disadvantaged, or Native American tribal population within the area of the proposed action.

4.6 CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

Cumulative impacts is defined by the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) as the effects on the environment which result from the incremental effect of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. Ecological effects refer to effects on natural resources and on the components, structures, and functioning of affected ecosystems, whether direct, indirect, or cumulative.

Similar beach nourishment activities are routinely performed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers along adjacent segments of the beach to a distance of 30,000 feet north of the jetty. Additionally, a nearshore berm is located about one-half mile from the South Padre Island beach. Dredged material deposited in the berm will erode through wave action and wash up on adjacent beaches as a different mode of nourishment. All of these projects result in the beneficial use of dredged material by offsetting effects of erosion and providing material to the littoral sediment budget.

South Padre Island is a highly developed area with public parks, hotels, condominiums and amenities supporting tourism, which is the primary industry of the island. Other than construction of similar features, no other projects are anticipated in the foreseeable future.

Therefore, no adverse cumulative impacts to environmental resources are expected as a result of project implementation; rather, environmental benefits should accrue in several resource areas.

5.0 RELATIONSHIP TO OTHER FEDERAL PROJECTS

This plan is part of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, which is a federally-maintained navigation channel. There are no other Federal projects directly affected by this plan.

6.0 RELATIONSHIP OF PLAN TO ENVIRONMENTAL REQUIREMENTS

This assessment has been prepared to satisfy the requirements of all applicable environmental laws and regulations and has been prepared using Corps of Engineers Regulation ER 200-2-2, Environmental Quality: Procedures for Implementing NEPA and the CEQ National Environmental Policy Act regulations (40 CFR Part 1500). The following is a list of applicable

environmental laws and regulations that were considered in the planning of this project and the status of compliance with each.

National Environmental Policy Act - This environmental assessment has been prepared in accordance with CEQ regulations to aid in complying with NEPA. The environmental and social consequences of the recommended plan have been analyzed in accordance with the Act and presented in the assessment.

Fish And Wildlife Coordination Act Of 1958, as amended - The proposed plan has been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), NMFS, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD), and other appropriate State and Federal resource agencies. During the coordination process, the agencies provided information on fish and wildlife resources and planning input that was considered in the development of the project. No significant concerns were identified by the resource agencies (Appendices A and D).

Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended - The USFWS and NMFS were contacted regarding threatened, endangered or proposed species and their critical habitats in the project area (Appendix D). Available information, investigations, and informal consultation with USFWS and NMFS have determined that the proposed project will not result in adverse impacts to any federally listed threatened or endangered species (Sections 3.2 and 4.2).

Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Public Law 104 - 297) - Congress enacted amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Public Law 94-265) in 1996 that established procedures for identifying essential fish habitat and required interagency coordination to further the conservation of federally managed fisheries. Rules published by the National Marine Fisheries Service (50 CFR 600.805 through 600.930) specify that any Federal agency that authorizes, funds, or undertakes or proposes to authorize, fund, or undertake an activity that could adversely affect EFH is subject to the consultation provisions of the Act. No significant impacts to living marine resources or EFH will occur as a result of the project (Sections 3.1 and 4.1, Appendix D).

Clean Water Act (CWA) of 1977 - A CWA Section 404(b)(1) evaluation of the proposed action was conducted and is included in Appendix B. A Joint Public Notice has been issued with the TCEQ (Appendix A). The §401 State Water Quality Certification for this action is also included in Appendix B.

Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 - This Act requires a determination that dredged material discharge in the ocean will not unreasonably degrade or

endanger human health, welfare or amenities, or the marine environment, ecological system, or economic potentialities (shellfish beds, fisheries, or recreational areas). No additional offshore placement sites for deposition of material excavated from this project are proposed under this action.

National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended - Coordination of the proposed project has been completed with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer. No further historic resources investigations are necessary and no sites will be impacted by this project (USACE, 1996)

Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA) of 1972 - This Act requires that all land-use changes in the project area be conducted in accordance with approved State coastal zone management programs. Any project that is located in or that may affect land and water resources in the Texas coastal zone and that requires a Federal license or permit, or is a direct activity of a Federal agency, or is federally funded must be reviewed for consistency with the Texas Coastal Management Program (TCMP). The proposed action is within the coastal boundary defined by the TCMP and is consistent to the maximum extent practicable with the goals and policies of the TCMP (Sections 3.4 and 4.4, Appendix C). A letter from the Coastal Coordination Council (CCC) indicating their agreement that the proposed action is in compliance with the TCMP is included in Appendix C.

Clean Air Act of 1977 - The EPA established nationwide air quality standards to protect public health and welfare. The State of Texas has adopted the National Ambient Air Quality Standards [40 CFR Part 50] as the State's air quality criteria. No air quality issues were identified (USACE, 1996)

Executive Order (EO) 11990, Protection of Wetlands - The proposed action has been analyzed for compliance with EO 11990. Impacts to wetlands from the proposed action have been identified in the EA (USACE, 1996) and Section 404(b)(1) analysis. The proposed project is in compliance with this EO.

EO 11988, Floodplain Management - This EO directs Federal agencies to evaluate the potential effects of proposed actions in floodplains. The proposed project is situated in a floodplain. In accordance with this EO, a public notice has been circulated to acquaint the public and all interested Federal, State and local agencies, and organizations with details of the proposed action and provide an opportunity for public hearing. The recommended plan will not induce increased flooding in developed areas and will not contribute to increased future flood damages.

CEQ Memorandum dated August 11, 1980, Prime or Unique Farmlands - Prime farmland is land that has the best combination of physical and chemical characteristics for producing food, feed, forage, fiber, and oilseed crops and is also available for these uses. Unique farmland is land other than prime farmland that is used for the production of specific high-value food and fiber crops. The proposed project will not impact any lands considered prime or unique farmlands.

EO 12898, Environmental Justice - This EO directs Federal agencies to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, and consistent with the principles set forth in the report on the National Performance Review, to achieve environmental justice by identifying and addressing, as appropriate, disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of its programs, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations in the United States and its territories and possessions, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Commonwealth of the Mariana Islands.

The project will not have a disproportionate adverse impact on minority or low-income population groups within the project area (Sections 3.5 and 4.5).

6.0 COORDINATION WITH OTHERS

Coordination with appropriate Federal, State and local interests and citizens has occurred during development of the proposed plan. The USFWS, NMFS, and TPWD were the major resource agency contacts for fish and wildlife concerns. Information and suggestions received from these agencies has been considered in developing the proposed plan. The agencies indicated no significant concerns with placement of material on South Padre Island beaches. Local interests have participated in providing information and assisted in the plan.

A joint public notice for completion of the recommended beach nourishment was circulated to interested Federal, State and local agencies, organizations and interested citizens on June 21, 2004 as part of the requirements of Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and Executive Orders 11988 and 11990. Comments on the public notice were received and are located at Appendix A.

The Texas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) has been informed of the proposed activity at South Padre Island. Coordination with the SHPO was previously conducted in association with the earlier EA for beach nourishment at South Padre Island (USACE, 1996). No potential impacts to historic or prehistoric properties have been identified.

Previous assessments concerning HTRW were conducted in association with the earlier EA for beach nourishment at South Padre Island (USACE, 1996). Those assessments concluded that the probability of encountering hazardous, toxic or radioactive wastes during project implementation was low.

The draft environmental assessment was circulated to interested Federal, State and local agencies, organizations, and interested citizens. Appendix F will contain the comments to the draft environmental assessment and responses to the comments. A notice of availability of the environmental assessment was addressed in the Public Notice (Appendix A).

8.0 CONCLUSIONS

The following specific conclusions summarize the findings of the EA, as detailed in USACE (1996) and in the environmental analyses at Section 4.0:

- Aquatic habitat will be temporarily affected during dredged material discharge activities, but these impacts do not represent significant impacts to the environment. Benefits accrue through beach nourishment and some erosion control.

- No terrestrial habitats will be adversely affected by this proposed action. All beach nourishment activities will be conducted seaward of the dune and vegetation line. The nourished beach will beneficially provide some erosion protection to the dune and back beach areas.

- Fish and invertebrates may be temporarily affected locally in the project area, but this does not represent significant or adverse impacts to the environment.

- Threatened or endangered species will be unaffected by this action. A few species may benefit due to habitat nourishment.

- Historic properties or recorded archeological sites will not be affected by the proposed action.

- Emissions from construction activities are not considered regionally significant.

- Implementation of the proposed action will not exceed any Federal or local noise guidelines and regulations, and there are no sensitive receptors in the project vicinity. There will be no noise impacts from the proposed activities.

- There will be no long-term impacts to water quality from the proposed activities.

- There will be no hazardous and/or toxic waste impacts from the proposed action.

- There will be minor, temporary impacts to localized aesthetics during the construction period, but no long-term impacts. Navigation will be unaffected.

- No significant or adverse impacts to environmental resources are expected to occur as a result of implementation of the proposed project.

- No adverse cumulative impacts to environmental resources are expected as a result of project implementation

- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers finds that the proposed action is not a major Federal action and is in compliance with the Texas Coastal Management Program.

- It is recommended that a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) be prepared and signed for this action.

9.0 LITERATURE CITED

TCEQ (Texas Commission on Environmental Quality). 2002. Draft 305(b) Water Quality Inventory for 2002.

USACE (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers). 1979. Final Environmental Statement, Brazos Island Harbor, Texas, Brownsville Channel, Channel Improvements for Navigation. Prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District. October.

USACE. 1988. Environmental Assessment, Brazos Island Harbor, Texas, Underwater Feeder Berm Construction. Prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District. August.

USACE. 1990. Brazos Island Harbor, Entrance Channel. Unpublished water, sediment, and elutriate data.

USACE. 1994. Brazos Island Harbor, Entrance Channel. Unpublished water, sediment, and elutriate data.

USACE. 1996. Environmental Assessment, Brazos Island Harbor, Texas, Alternative Placement Area on South Padre Island, Cameron County, Texas. Prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District. October.

USACE. 1998. Brazos Island Harbor, Entrance Channel. Unpublished water, sediment, and elutriate data.

USACE. 2000. Brazos Island Harbor, Entrance Channel. Unpublished water, sediment, and elutriate data.

USCB (U.S. Census Bureau), 2004. http://factfinder.census.gov/servlet/BasicFactsServlet. Accessed June 24, 2004.

APPENDIX A

Public Notice and Responses

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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Environmental Section

June 21, 2004

JOINT PUBLIC NOTICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT
AND
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. RIO-M-4
(Supplements Public Notice No. RIO-M-3)

MAINTENANCE DREDGING
BRAZOS ISLAND HARBOR, TEXAS
EXTENSION OF BEACH NOURISHMENT AREA ON SOUTH PADRE ISLAND
AND PREPARATION OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

PURPOSE

This public notice is issued in accordance with the provisions of Federal regulations, Title 33 CFR 337.1 and Title 40 CFR 230, concerning the policy, practice, and procedures to be followed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) in connection with disposition of dredged or fill material in navigable waters.

This notice is being distributed to interested State, Federal, and local agencies, private organizations, news media, and individuals in order to assist in collecting facts and recommendations concerning the proposed dredged material placement activity.

This public notice supplements PUBLIC NOTICE NO. RIO-M-3 dated February 26, 1996, which described the beneficial placement of maintenance dredged material from the Entrance Channel of the Brazos Island Harbor (BIH), Texas project to nourish the beaches of South Padre Island. The purpose of this notice is to inform the public that an additional beach area is proposed for similar dredged material placement operations and that an Environmental Assessment is being prepared to describe potential impacts.

PUBLIC NOTICE NO. RIO-M-4

This public notice only addresses changes in the authorized dredged material placement plan, that additional beach frontage on South Padre Island is being incorporated into the plan to use dredged material for beach nourishment, as presented originally by RIO-M-3.

PROJECT LOCATION

The proposed beach nourishment area is located in Isla Blanca Park which is situated along the southernmost tip of South Padre Island, Cameron County Texas (Figure 1).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Improvements to the channel and subsequent maintenance dredging of the BIH project were addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that was completed and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on March 13, 1981. In the EIS, a designated offshore placement area for the deposition of dredged materials from the Entrance Channel was identified. Maintenance dredging of the Entrance Channel is required approximately every two years. The proposed action provides for continued periodic maintenance of the channel to its existing dimensions.

The work described in this public notice identifies an additional dredged material placement area to be used for beach nourishment on South Padre Island during routine maintenance of the federally-maintained navigation project. Material dredged from this channel consists of beach-quality sand, and placement of this material along the beach will replace some of the sand lost to erosion thereby providing a beneficial use of dredged material. The new area does not replace previously designated areas; they will continue to be available for dredged material placement.

The proposed plan is to allow discharge of beach quality dredged material from the channel onto the beach along Isla Blanca Park, on South Padre Island, Texas. The additional area would extend from the northern jetty to a point 6,000 feet north of the channel. At this point the new area would adjoin the existing beach nourishment site described in Public Notice No. RIO-M-3 to form a continuous beach nourishment zone that spans a distance of about 30,000 feet north from the jetty.

The entire zone will not receive sand during any particular dredging job; the actual discharge location would vary in length and width depending on nourishment needs and the quantity of available material. During dredging operations, material will be placed on the beach at an elevation up to approximately 5 feet above mean sea level and slope seaward at an appropriate grade. Deposition of the material will avoid existing dunes and vegetated areas along the back beach. Subsequent placement opportunities may include discharge of material into the surf zone,

thus allowing natural processes to winnow out the fines and allow currents to distribute the material along the shoreline.

Proposed beach nourishment activities will generally be scheduled to take place only during the period from November 1 until about December 25, for any given year. This schedule was established through coordination with City and County officials and after consideration of safety and public access.

NEED FOR WORK

The USACE is responsible for maintaining the Brazos Island Harbor Project to its authorized dimensions to insure navigability of the waterway. The addition of the alternative placement area will provide additional opportunities to beneficially use dredged materials, as well as ensure that adequate long-term capacity is provided to accommodate the anticipated volume of material to be excavated from the channel over the life of the project.

COMPOSITION AND QUANTITY OF MATERIALS

Materials to be deposited onto the beach consist primarily of sand with some silt, and clay. Historically, the average percentage of sand is 71.5, but can be as high as 97% at some locations. Shoaling in the channel is a result of littoral drift and tidal action in the Gulf of Mexico. It is estimated that about 540,000 cubic yards of materials will be removed per dredging cycle.

Shoal material from the channel has undergone chemical and grain size analyses prior to dredging events. Chemical data obtained in conjunction with previous dredging indicate that no unacceptable environmental impacts due to chemical constituents in sediments are expected to occur from the proposed dredged material placement plan.

DREDGING EQUIPMENT

Maintenance dredging of this project is generally performed by a hydraulic cutterhead dredge or hopper dredge. These types of equipment utilize a centrifugal pump to excavate and entrain sediment in high velocity water then pump the slurry through a floating or temporary land-based pipeline to the placement area. Although dredging contractors have different sizes of dredges, it is expected that future dredging for this project would be conducted by a 20-inch (pipeline diameter) or larger cutterhead dredge.

Other types of equipment expected to be used during channel maintenance include barges, and tow boats to transport floating pipelines and equipment; trucks to transport land-based pipelines

and equipment; cranes and other heavy equipment to lift and position the dredge pipe; and earth movers, bulldozers, or graders to spread and dress the dredged material on the beach.

DREDGING BY OTHERS

There is no dredging or deposition of materials by others covered by this notice. The Department of the Army permit program regulates non-Federal dredging activities.

COMPLIANCE WITH LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This proposed plan is being coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and other Federal, State, and local agencies. Informal consultation procedures also have begun with the USFWS and NMFS in compliance with the Endangered Species Act, as amended. Our initial determination is that the proposed action will not have any adverse impacts on threatened or endangered species.

This notice initiates Essential Fish Habitat consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action will not have a substantial adverse impact on Essential Fish Habitat or federally-managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the NMFS.

The proposed dredged material placement plan will also be evaluated with regard to the requirements of Section 404(b)(1) of the Clean Water Act. Water quality certification will be requested from the Texas Commission On Environmental Quality (TCEQ).

It is also our preliminary determination that the proposed action is consistent with the Texas Coastal Management Program (TCMP) to the maximum extent practicable.

The proposed activity will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). Our initial determination is that the proposed action will not have any adverse impacts on historic or cultural resources.

The following is a list of Federal, State, and local agencies with which these activities are being coordinated:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
U.S. Department of Commerce
U.S. Department of the Interior

U.S. Department of Energy
Eighth Coast Guard District
Budget and Planning Office, Office of the Governor of Texas
Texas Historical Commission
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Texas Commission On Environmental Quality
Texas General Land Office
Coastal Coordination Council
The Texas Office of State-Federal Relations
Texas Department of Transportation
Texas Water Development Board
Commissioners' Court of Cameron County
Brownsville Navigation District
City of South Padre Island

STATE WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

TCEQ certification is required. The TCEQ is reviewing the proposed project under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act and in accordance with Title 30, Texas Administrative Code Section 279.1-13 to determine if the work would comply with State water quality standards. By virtue of an agreement between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and the TCEQ, this public notice is also issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the TCEQ a decision on water quality certification under such act. Any comments concerning this work may be submitted to the Texas Commission On Environmental Quality, Attention: 401 Coordinator, MC-150, P.O. Box 13087, Capitol Station, Austin, Texas 78711-13087. The public comment period extends 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the public notice with a description of work is made available for review in the TCEQ's Austin office.

The TCEQ may conduct a public meeting to consider all comments concerning water quality if requested in writing. A request for a public meeting must contain the following information: the name, mailing address, and telephone number of the person making the request; a brief description of the interest of the requester, or of persons represented by the requester; and a brief description of how the project would adversely affect such interest.

EVALUATION FACTORS

The decision whether to proceed with the proposed action will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the

national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources as well as public and environmental safety and economic concerns.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The work described in this notice represents a change to the existing project. A preliminary review of this proposed plan indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. This preliminary determination of EIS requirement will be changed if information brought forth in the coordination process is of a significant nature. It is anticipated that an Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be prepared as required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Single copies of these documents will be available by written request to the address below. These documents will also become available online at: http://www.swg.usace.army.mil

Designation of the proposed plan associated with this Federal project shall be made through the application of guidelines promulgated by the Administrator of the EPA in conjunction with the Secretary of the Army. If these guidelines alone prohibit the designation of this proposed plan, any potential impairment to the maintenance of navigation, including any economic impact on navigation and anchorage which would result from the failure to use this plan, will also be considered.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Persons desiring to express their views or provide information to be considered in evaluating the impact of this work and the future maintenance and operations are requested to mail their comments within 30 days of the date of this notice to:

District Engineer
U.S. Army Engineer District, Galveston
ATTN: CESWG-PE-PR
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

or E-mail to: robert.g.hauch@usace.army.mil

The comments should make specific reference to Public Notice No. RIO-M-4.

Any person who has an interest, which may be affected by this action, may request a public hearing. The request must be submitted in writing within 30 days of the date of this notice and

must clearly set forth the interest which may be affected and the manner in which the interest may be affected by this activity.

Any questions concerning the proposed action may be directed to Mr. Rob Hauch at (409) 766-3913.

Leonard D. Waterworth
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Engineer

Enclosure

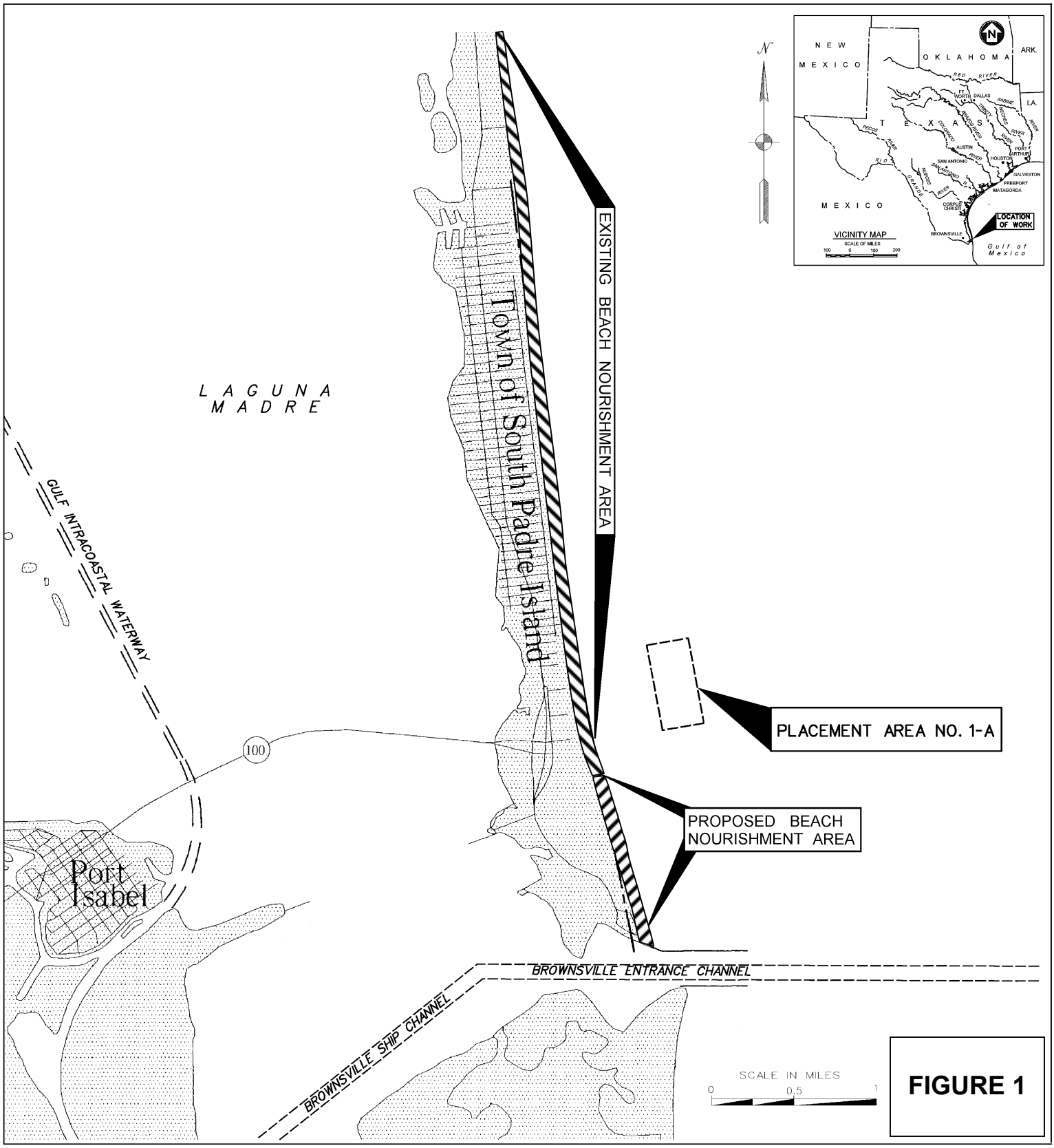

EXISTING BEACH NOURISHMENT AREA
Town of South Padre Island
LAGUNA MADRE
GULF INTRACOASTAL WATERWAY
100
Port Isabel
PLACEMENT AREA NO. 1-A
PROPOSED BEACH NOURISHMENT AREA
BROWNSVILLE ENTRANCE CHANNEL
BROWNSVILLE SHIP CHANNEL
SCALE IN MILES
0
0.5
1
N
NEW MEXICO
OKLAHOMA
ARK.
LA.
TEXAS
MEXICO
RED RIVER
FT. WORTH
DALLAS
SABINE RIVER
PECOS RIVER
COLORADO RIVER
BRAZOS RIVER
TRINITY RIVER
NECHES RIVER
AUSTIN
SAN ANTONIO
HOUSTON
PORT ARTHUR
GALVESTON
FREEPORT
MATAGORDA
RIO GRANDE
NUECES RIVER
SAN ANTONIO RIVER
CORPUS CHRISTI
BROWNSVILLE
LOCATION OF WORK
Gulf of Mexico
VICINITY MAP
SCALE OF MILES
100 0 100 200

FIGURE 1

Hauch, Robert G SWG

From: gdwash@att.net
Sent: Saturday, July 03, 2004 10:28 PM
To: Hauch, Robert G
Subject: Public Notice No. RIO-M-4

Thank you for including me in the list of names that you are asking for comments.
Areas of concern with this maintenance dredging are as follows:
1. There is a very wide range of percent sand allowed for the dredged material that is going to be deposited on the beach. It seems in years past, the clay balls never seem to go away. The silt, fish, and sea shells seem to be cleansed by the littoral drift and tidal action. Therefore, I think it is imparitive that the choice of dredge be carefully selected and that the slurry be tested frequently to ensure that the highest quality of dredged material from a beach perspective be placed on the beach in the proposed area. It seems to me that the hopper dredge would be better suited to produce beach quality material because of its vaccum action than the cutterhead dredge since it may be dificult to maintain a precise depth for the cutterhead dredging.
2. I noted in conversations with local surfers that the littoral drift in the vicinity of the north jetty has a tendency, during frequent low and moderate storm surges, to move in a southerly direction until it hits the north jetty and then the current flows outward to sea. This seems as if nourishment material in the proposed area might return to the ship channel more quickly than anticipated. I suggest that consideration be given to cause the energy from these currents to be reduced so that the sediment load can be dropped prior to reentering the ship channel.
3. I know that current studies have been made regarding the location of "placement area No. 1-A" and it's use as a beach nourishment storage area as well as just a disposal area. Has this area been used to date and has the Corps determined that this area can provide material to nourish the beach or can this area be used to divert material to it that is not material of beach quality?
4. I support the use of dredged material for nourishment of South Padre Island beaches as well as the proposed area within the Cameron County's Isla Blanca Park. However, I believe that steps can be taken to improve the product that is being delivered to the beach with little or no increase in dredging costs.
5. I feel, based on the past history of placement of maintenance dredged material, no environmental statement or Public hearing should be required.
I appreciate your consideration of my comments.
Gene N. Washburn,P.E.

Gene N. Washburn, P.E.
Email Response

COMMENT NO. RESPONSE

Thank you for your email.

1. Regarding quality of sand, the dredging reach selected for source material for placement on the South Padre Island beach, has been sampled on numerous occasions for previous contracts, and has been shown to consist predominantly of fine beach sand – as can be expected since the predominant source of the sand is from the adjacent beach area. Pockets of silt can be expected to collect during periods of low tidal flow; however, this material is typically washed out of the placed material during or shortly after dredging.

   With regard to the clay-balls, it is not practical to eliminate cutting of some clay during dredging, even if a hopper dredge is used. However, it can be anticipated that with each maintenance cycle, the amount of clay discharged on the beach will lessen, as the top of the stiff clay exposed during the new channel construction, becomes smoother with each successive maintenance contract.

   It can be argued that after the bottom becomes smoother, a hopper dredge is less likely to pick up stiff clay, and it is possible to conduct this work with a hopper dredge. However, there are two major considerations which support continued use of the cutterhead-pipeline dredge:

   a) The additional cost associated with use of a hopper dredge and pump-out placement contract would have to be borne by the local entity.

   b) Sea turtles have been documented in the channel year-round. Despite extensive precautions, turtles are vulnerable to entrainment by hopper dredge. There is a definite risk of having to stop the work prior to completion due to sea turtles takes. There are no such concerns associated with cutterhead dredges.

   Although clay balls may be deposited on the beach, the contractor is required to remove them before leaving the project area.

COMMENT NO.	RESPONSE

2. The presence of a rip current at the north jetty is highly likely, both during typical winter wind patterns, with a northeastern component, and during storm surges. However, studies suggest that the primary source of sediment that causes shoaling of the channel is material that moves up from the south, and settles into the channel during tidal exchange.

   Although the proposed beach nourishment extends from the north jetty, it is unlikely that material will be deposited very near the jetty due to concerns about it returning to the channel.

3. Placement Area No. 1-A is considered to be a beneficial use site that acts as a source of sand for beach nourishment and as shore protection from long-period waves. This site was used several times and is available for continued use. Due to the relatively small volume of material placed there during any given dredging event, changes to the beach profile were not obvious. However, monitoring showed that the created berm migrated shoreward and decreased in elevation. This suggests that material ultimately settles on the beach, somewhere. Regardless, this site represents a return of material to the littoral sediment budget.

4. Beach nourishment at South Padre Island has been conducted only a few times; we continue to learn more each time these operations are performed. We will continue to evaluate operations and endeavor to improve the quality of the beach nourishment to fulfill the expectations of the local sponsor.

TEXAS PARKS & WILDLIFE

July 29, 2004

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Colonel Leonard D. Waterworth
District Engineer, Galveston District
Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553

Dear Colonel Waterworth:

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department staff (staff) has reviewed Public Notice No. RIO-M-4, dated June 21, 2004, concerning the maintenance dredging of Brazos Island Harbor Entrance Channel, Texas and a proposed extension of the beach nourishment site located on South Padre Island, Texas. The public notice also indicates that an Environmental Assessment is being prepared to describe potential project-related impacts. Public Notice RIO-M-4 supplements Public Notice No. RIO-M-3 (dated February 26, 1996), which described the beneficial placement of maintenance dredged material from the Brazos Island Harbor Entrance Channel to nourish the beaches of South Padre Island. The purpose of the current public notice is to extend the beach nourishment aspect of the project to the beaches located at Isla Blanca Park. Isla Blanca Park is situated along the southernmost tip of South Padre Island, Cameron County, Texas.

According to information contained in the public notice, the currently proposed plan would allow for the discharge of beach quality dredged material from the Brazos Island Harbor Entrance Channel onto the beach along Isla Blanca Park. The additional area would extend from the northern jetty to a point 6,000 feet north of the channel. At this point, the new area would adjoin the existing beach nourishment site described in Public Notice No. RIO-M-3 to form a continuous beach nourishment zone that spans a distance of about 30,000 feet north from the jetty. The actual discharge location would vary in length and width depending on nourishment needs and the quantity of material available. Deposition of the material will avoid existing dunes and vegetated areas along the back beach. Subsequent placement opportunities may include discharge of material into the surf zone, thus allowing natural processes to winnow out the fines and allow currents to distribute the material along the shoreline.

Department staff has reviewed the currently proposed project and does not anticipate any adverse impacts to the natural resources present. The project

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AUG 1 2 2004

does, however, have the potential to affect sea turtles and perhaps piping plover habitat. Department staff is of the understanding that the dredged material would not be placed on the beach during sea turtle nesting season, but staff is not aware of any coordination regarding potential turtle-related impacts associated with the use of hopper dredges. Because green sea turtles are known to use the channel area, Department staff recommends that the National Marine Fisheries Service be contacted regarding appropriate coordination relative to sea turtles. 1 2

Department staff also recommends that the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service be contacted regarding issues related to piping plover critical habitat which occurs in the beach nourishment project areas. 3

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Public Notice No. RIO-M-4. If we can be of further assistance, please contact Mary Ellen Vega in Corpus Christi (361-825-3243).

Sincerely,

Robert W. (Bob) Spain
Director of Habitat Resources

RWS:MEV:JRM:sh

Robert W. Spain
Assistant Director for Resource Protection
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744-3291

COMMENT NO. RESPONSE

Thank you for your comments.

1. Beach nourishment activities will be conducted during the period between November 1 and December 25 during any given year. This time frame is outside the turtle nesting season.

2. The proposed activity described in the public notice and Environmental Assessment (EA) only involves the placement of dredged material for beach nourishment. Dredging operations were previously coordinated with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), as required by Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. The NMFS was sent a copy of the public notice; however, they did not provide any comments.

3. The proposed activity is not located within critical habitat for the piping plover. The EA will be provided to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for review and comment. The USFWS was sent a copy of the public notice; however, they did not provide any comments.

APPENDIX B

Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation and Section 401 Certification

EVALUATION OF SECTION 404(b)(1) GUIDELINES
(SHORT FORM)

PROPOSED PROJECT: Brazos Island Harbor, Texas
Extension of Beach Nourishment Area on South Padre Island

	Yes	No*
1. Review of Compliance (230.10(a)-(d))		
A review of the proposed project indicates that:		
a. The placement represents the least environmentally damaging practicable alternative and, if in a special aquatic site, the activity associated with the placement must have direct access or proximity to, or be located in the aquatic ecosystem, to fulfill its basic purpose (if no, see section 2 and information gathered for EA alternative).	X	
b. The activity does not appear to:		
1) Violate applicable state water quality standards or effluent standards prohibited under Section 307 of the Clean Water Act;	X	
2) Jeopardize the existence of Federally listed endangered or threatened species or their habitat; and	X	
3) Violate requirements of any Federally designated marine sanctuary (if no, see section 2b and check responses from resource and water quality certifying agencies).	X	
c. The activity will not cause or contribute to significant degradation of waters of the U.S. including adverse effects on human health, life stages of organisms dependent on the aquatic ecosystem, ecosystem diversity, productivity and stability, and recreational, aesthetic, an economic values (if no, see values, Section 2)	X	
d. Appropriate and practicable steps have been taken to minimize potential adverse impacts of the discharge on the aquatic ecosystem (if no, see Section 5)	X	

	Not Applicable	Not Significant	Significant*
2. Technical Evaluation Factors (Subparts C-F) (where a 'Significant' category is checked, add explanation below.)			
a. Physical and Chemical Characteristics of the Aquatic Ecosystem (Subpart C)			
1) Substrate impacts		X	
2) Suspended particulates/turbidity impacts		X	
3) Water column impacts		X	
4) Alteration of current patterns and water circulation	X		
5) Alteration of normal water fluctuation/hydroperiod	X		
6) Alteration of salinity gradients	X		
b. Biological Characteristics of the Aquatic Ecosystem (Subpart D)			
1) Effect on threatened/endangered species and their habitat		X	
2) Effect on the aquatic food web		X	
3) Effect on other wildlife (mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians)		X	

	Not Applicable	Not Significant	Significant*
2. Technical Evaluation Factors (Subparts C-F) (where a 'Significant' category is checked, add explanation below.)			
c. Special Aquatic Sites (Subpart E)			
1) Sanctuaries and refuges	X		
2) Wetlands	X		
3) Mud flats	X		
4) Vegetated shallows	X		
5) Coral reefs	X		
6) Riffle and pool complexes	X		
d. Human Use Characteristics (Subpart F)			
1) Effects on municipal and private water supplies	X		
2) Recreational and Commercial fisheries impacts		X	
3) Effects on water-related recreation		X	
4) Aesthetic impacts		X	
5) Effects on parks, national and historical monuments, national seashores, wilderness areas, research sites, and similar preserves		X	

	Yes
3. Evaluation of Dredged or Fill Material (Subpart G)	
a. The following information has been considered in evaluating the biological availability of possible contaminants in dredged or fill material (check only those appropriate)	
1) Physical characteristics	X
2) Hydrography in relation to known or anticipated sources of contaminants	
3) Results from previous testing of the material or similar material in the vicinity of the project	X
4) Known, significant sources of persistent pesticides from land runoff or percolation	
5) Spill records for petroleum products or designated (Section 311 of Clean Water Act) hazardous substances	X
6) Other public records of significant introduction of contaminants from industries, municipalities or other sources	
7) Known existence of substantial material deposits of substances which could be released in harmful quantities to the aquatic environment by man-induced discharge activities	

List appropriate references:

1) Unpublished Corps of Engineer data, Brazos Island Harbor Channel, 2003 (enclosed).

2) Unpublished data, Corps of Engineer data, Brazos Island Harbor – Entrance Channel – Outer Bar Channel and Jetty Channel, 1990, 1994, 1998, 2000.

3) National Response Center – Public Report URL http://www.nrc.uscg.mil/

	Yes	No
b. An evaluation of the appropriate information in 3a above indicates that there is reason to believe the proposed dredge or fill material is not a carrier of contaminants, or that levels of contaminants are substantively similar at extraction and placement sites and not likely to degrade the placement sites, or the material meets the testing exclusion criteria.	**X**	

	Yes
4. Placement Site Delineation (230.11(f))	
a. The following factors as appropriate, have been considered in evaluating the placement site:	
1) Depth of water at placement site	
2) Current velocity, direction, and variability at placement site	
3) Degree of turbulence	
4) Water column stratification	
5) Discharge vessel speed and direction	
6) Rate of discharge	
7) Fill material characteristics (constituents, amount, and type of material, settling velocities)	**X**
8) Number of discharges per unit of time	
9) Other factors affecting rates and patterns of mixing (specify)	

List appropriate references:

	Yes	No
b. An evaluation of the appropriate factors in 4a above indicates that the placement site and/or size of mixing zone are acceptable.	**X**	

	Yes	No
5. Actions to Minimize Adverse Effects (Subpart H)		
All appropriate and practicable steps have been taken, through application of recommendations of 230.70-230.77 to ensure minimal adverse effects of the proposed discharge.	**X**	

List actions taken:

1) Energy dissipaters will be used at the discharge to prevent scour at the beach nourishment site.

	Yes	No*
6. Factual Determination (230.11)		
A review of appropriate information as identified in items 2-5 above indicates that there is minimal potential for short- or long-term environmental effects of the proposed discharge as related to:		
a. Physical substrate at the placement site (review Sections 2a. 3, 4, and 5 above)	X	
b. Water circulation, fluctuation and salinity (review Sections 2a. 3, 4, and 5)	X	
c. Suspended particulates/turbidity (review Sections 2a. 3, 4, and 5)	X	
d. Contaminant availability (review Sections 2a. 3, and 4)	X	
e. Aquatic ecosystem structure and function (review Sections 2b and c, 3, and 5)	X	
f. Placement site (review Sections 2, 4, and 5)	X	
g. Cumulative impacts on the aquatic ecosystem	X	
h. Secondary impacts on the aquatic ecosystem	X	

7. Evaluation Responsibility	
a. This evaluation was prepared by:	**Robert G. Hauch**
Position:	**Physical Scientist**

8. Findings	Yes
a. The proposed placement site for discharge of or fill material complies with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines.	X
b. The proposed placement site for discharge of dredged or fill material complies with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines with the inclusion of the following conditions:	

List of conditions:

c. The proposed placement site for discharge of dredged or fill material does not comply with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines for the following reason(s):	
1) There is a less damaging practicable alternative	
2) The proposed discharge will result in significant degradation of the aquatic ecosystem	
3) The proposed discharge does not include all practicable and appropriate measures to minimize potential harm to the aquatic ecosystem	

8/20/04 Date	Carolyn Murphy CAROLYN MURPHY Chief, Environmental Section

NOTES:

* A negative, significant, or unknown response indicates that the permit application may not be in compliance with the Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines.

Negative responses to three or more of the compliance criteria at the preliminary stage indicate that the proposed projects may not be evaluated using this "short form" procedure. Care should be used in assessing pertinent portions of the technical information of items 2a-e before completing the final review of compliance.

Negative response to one of the compliance criteria at the final stage indicates that the proposed project does not comply with the Guidelines. If the economics of navigation and anchorage of Section 404(b)(2) are to be evaluated in the decision-making process, the "short form" evaluation process is inappropriate.

0 200 400 800 Feet

PBSJ
1880 S. Dairy Ashford Rd., Ste. 300
Houston, Texas 77077-4760
Phone: (281) 493-5100 Fax: (281) 493-1047

Figure 1
BIH - Jetty Channel
Cameron County, Texas

Prepared for:	
Job No.: 441389	Scale: 1:4800
Prepared by: PBSJ/pjl	Date: June 2004
File: k:/441172/Projects/Layout(1).mxd	

TABLE 1

CONCENTRATIONS OF DETECTED COMPOUNDS (ug/L)
WATER
BRAZOS ISLAND HARBOR CHANNEL

Date Sampled: April 27, 2004

Parameter	WQS** Acute	WQS** Chronic	Detection Limit	BH-04 01A	BH-04 03A 01A Dup	BH-04 01B	BH-04 02	Field Blank
Arsenic	149	78	1.00	1.72	2.07	2.33	1.75	BDL
Cadmium	45.4	10.0	1.00	BDL	0.39 J	0.30 J	BDL	BDL
Chromium, Total	N/A	N/A	1.00	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
Chromium, III	N/A	N/A	1.00	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
Copper	13.5	3.60	1.00	0.40 J	0.36 J	0.78 J	0.72 J	BDL
Lead	133	5.3	1.00	BDL	0.39 J	0.30 J	BDL	BDL
Nickel	118	13.1	1.00	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
Selenium	564	136	2.00	0.86 J	BDL	BDL	0.74 J	BDL
Silver	2	N/A	1.00	BDL	BDL	BDL	0.59 J	BDL
Zinc	92.7	84.2	1.00	4.89	5.46	4.62	4.79	BDL
Ammonia*	N/A	N/A	0.03	0.07	0.03	0.04	0.04	N/A
TOC*	N/A	N/A	0.10	2.22	2.89	2.73	2.54	N/A

Dup = Duplicate Sample
BDL = Below Detection Limits
* mg/L
** Texas Water Quality Standards for Saltwater
J Compound detected value below Quantitation Limits

TABLE 2

CONCENTRATIONS OF DETECTED COMPOUNDS (ug/L)
ELUTRIATE
BRAZOS ISLAND HARBOR CHANNEL

Date Sampled: April 27, 2004

Parameter	WQS** Acute	WQS** Chronic	Detection Limit	BH-04 01A	BH-04 03A 01A Dup	BH-04 01B	BH-04 02
Arsenic	149	78	1.00	3.66	2.90	1.72	2.95
Cadmium	45.4	10.0	1.00	0.30 J	BDL	BDL	BDL
Chromium, Total	N/A	N/A	1.00	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
Chromium, III	N/A	N/A	1.00	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
Copper	13.5	3.60	1.00	0.69 J	0.84 J	1.27	0.50
Lead	133	5.3	1.00	BDL	BDL	0.31 J	0.30
Nickel	118	13.1	1.00	BDL	BDL	0.76 J	0.35
Selenium	564	136	2.00	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
Silver	2	N/A	1.00	BDL	BDL	BDL	BDL
Zinc	92.7	84.2	1.00	9.87	5.98	22.7	6.68
Ammonia*	N/A	N/A	0.03	0.28	0.36	0.29	0.30
TOC*	N/A	N/A	0.10	2.45	3.70	2.27	3.14

Dup = Duplicate Sample
BDL = Below Detection Limits
* mg/L
** Texas Water Quality Standards for Saltwater
J Compound detected value below Quantitation Limits

TABLE 3

CONCENTRATIONS OF DETECTED COMPOUNDS (dry weight)
SEDIMENT
BRAZOS ISLAND HARBOR CHANNEL

Date Sampled: April 27, 2004

Parameter	Units	Detection Limit	NOAA ERL	BH-04					
				01A	03A 01A Dup	01B	02	3+250	4+000
Arsenic	mg/kg	0.30	8.2	5.05	4.20	3.93	4.01	N/A	N/A
Beryllium	mg/kg	1.00	N/A	0.45 J	0.24 J	0.33 J	0.29 J	N/A	N/A
Cadmium	mg/kg	0.10	1.2	0.12	BDL	0.08 J	BDL	N/A	N/A
Chromium, Total	mg/kg	1.00	81.0	7.74	4.04	5.62	5.59	N/A	N/A
Chromium III	mg/kg	1.00	N/A	7.74	4.04	5.62	5.59	N/A	N/A
Copper	mg/kg	1.00	34.0	4.29	1.84	3.03	3.20	N/A	N/A
Lead	mg/kg	0.30	46.7	8.64	5.42	6.55	6.42	N/A	N/A
Nickel	mg/kg	0.50	20.9	7.33	3.86	5.24	5.09	N/A	N/A
Selenium	mg/kg	0.50	N/A	0.14 J	BDL	0.10 J	0.10 J	N/A	N/A
Silver	mg/kg	0.20	1.0	0.05 J	BDL	0.04 J	BDL	N/A	N/A
Thallium	mg/kg	0.20	N/A	0.23	0.14 J	0.29	0.19 J	N/A	N/A
Zinc	mg/kg	2.00	150	13.5	8.62	10.1	9.31	N/A	N/A
Ammonia	mg/kg	0.10	N/A	51.6	49.3	36.1	52.6	N/A	N/A
TOC	%	0.10	N/A	0.48	0.48	0.33	0.56	N/A	N/A
Percent Solids	%	N/A	N/A	64.2	62.8	71.7	68.0	N/A	N/A
Gravel	%	N/A		0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4	0.0	0.4
Sand	%	N/A		57.4	40.7	52.4	42.7	67.0	90.9
Silt	%	N/A		38.7	52.2	42.9	50.4	30.7	4.2
Clay	%	N/A		3.9	7.1	4.7	6.5	2.3	4.5
D50	mm	N/A		0.11	0.06	0.11	0.06	0.12	0.18

Dup = Duplicate Sample
BDL = Below Detection Limit
N/A = Not Applicable, Texture station only.
J Compound detected value below Quantitation Limits

Target Detection Levels[a] (TDLs)
for Analysis of Sediment, Water, and Elutriate

Chemical	Sediment	Water/Elutriate
Metals [e]		
	mg/kg	**μg/l**
Antimony	2.5	3 (0.02)[c]
Arsenic	0.3[b]	1 (0.005)[c]
Beryllium	1[b]	0.2
Cadmium	0.1	1 (0.01)[c]
Chromium (total)	1[b]	1
Chromium (3+)	1	1
Chromium (6+)	1	1
Copper	1[b]	1 (0.1)[c]
Lead	0.3[b]	1 (0.02)[c]
Mercury	0.2	0.2 (0.0002)[c]
Nickel	0.5[b]	1 (0.1)[c]
Selenium	0.5[b]	2
Silver	0.2	1 (0.1)[c]
Thallium	0.2	1 (0.02)[c]
Zinc	2[b]	1 (0.5)[c]
Conventional/Ancillary Parameters		
	mg/kg	**mg/l**
Ammonia	0.1	0.03
Cyanides	2	0.1[d]
Total Organic Carbon	0.1%	0.1%
Total Petroleum Hydrocarbons	5	0.1
Grain Size	1%	-
Total Solids/Dry Weight	0.1%	-
LPAH Compounds		
	μg/kg	**μg/l**
Naphthalene	20	0.8[b]
Acenaphthylene	20	1.0[b]
Acenaphthene	20	0.75[b]
Fluorene	20	0.6[b]
Phenanthrene	20	0.5[b]
Anthracene	20	0.6[b]

Target Detection Levels[a] (TDLs)
for Analysis of Sediment, Tissue, and Water/Elutriate

Chemical	Sediment	Water/Elutriate
HPAH Compounds		
	µg/kg	**µg/l**
Fluoranthene	20	0.9[b]
Pyrene	20	1.5[b]
Benzo(a)anthracene	20	0.4[b]
Chrysene	20	0.3[b]
Benzo(b&k)fluoranthene	20	0.6[b]
Benzo(a)pyrene	20	0.3[b]
Indeno[1,2,3-c,d]pyrene	20	1.2[b]
Dibenzo[a,h]anthracene	20	1.3[b]
Benzo[g,h,i]perylene	20	1.2[b]
Organonitrogen Compounds		
	µg/kg	**µg/l**
Benzidine	5	1
3,3-Dichlorobenzidine	300[b]	3[b]
2,4-Dinitrotoluene	200[b]	2[b]
2,6-Dinitrotoluene	200[b]	2[b]
1,2-Diphenylhydrazine	10	1
Nitrobenzene	160[b]	0.9[b]
N-Nitrosodimethyl amine	-	3.1[b]
N-Nitrosodi-n-propylamine	150[b]	0.9[b]
N-Nitrosodiphenylamine	20	2.1[b]
Phthalate Esters		
	µg/kg	**µg/l**
Dimethyl Phthalate	50	1[b]
Diethyl Phthalate	50	1[b]
Di-n-butyl Phthalate	50	1[b]
Butyl Benzyl Phthalate	50	4[b]
Bis[2-ethylhexyl] Phthalate	50	2[b]
Di-n-octyl Phthalate	50	3[b]
Phenols/Substituted Phenols		
	µg/kg	**µg/l**
Phenol	100	10
2,4-Dimethylphenol	20	10
Pentachlorophenol	100	50
2,4,6-Trichlorophenol	140[b]	0.9[b]
4-Chloro-3-methylphenol	140[b]	0.7[b]

Target Detection Levels[a] (TDLs)
for Analysis of Sediment, Tissue, and Water/Elutriate

Chemical	Sediment	Water/Elutriate
2-Nitrophenol	200[b]	2[b]
4-Nitrophenol	500[b]	5[b]
2,4-Dinitrophenol	500[b]	5[b]
2-Chlorophenol	110[b]	0.9[b]
2,4-Dichlorophenol	120[b]	0.8[b]
4,6-Dinitro-o-cresol	600	10
Polychlorinated Biphenyls		
	***µ*g/kg**	***µ*g/l**
Total PCB	1	0.01
Pesticides		
	***µ*g/kg**	***µ*g/l**
Aldrin	3[b]	0.03[b]
Chlordane and Derivatives	3[b]	0.03[b]
Dieldrin	5[b]	0.02
4,4'-DDD	5[b]	0.1
4,4'-DDE	5[b]	0.1
4,4'-DDT	5[b]	0.1
Endosulfan and Derivatives	5[b]	0.1
Endrin and Derivatives	5[b]	0.1
Heptachlor and Derivatives	3[b]	0.1
Alpha-BHC	3[b]	0.03
Beta-BHC	3[b]	0.03
Delta-BHC	3[b]	0.03
Gamma-BHC (Lindane)	3[b]	0.1
Toxaphene	50	0.5
Chlorinated Hydrocarbons		
	***µ*g/kg**	***µ*g/l**
1,3-Dichlorobenzene	20	0.9[b]
1,4-Dichlorobenzene	20	1[b]
1,2-Dichlorobenzene	20	0.8[b]
1,2,4-Trichlorobenzene	10	0.9[b]
Hexachlorobenzene	10	0.4[b]
2-Chloronapthalene	160[b]	0.8[b]
Hexachlorocyclopentadiene	300[b]	3.0[b]
Hexachloroethane	100	0.9[b]
Hexachlorobutadiene	20	0.9[b]

Target Detection Levels[a] (TDLs)
for Analysis of Sediment, Tissue, and Water/Elutriate

Chemical	Sediment	Water/Elutriate
Halogenated Ethers		
	µg/kg	**µg/l**
Bis(2-chloroethyl)ether	130[b]	0.9[b]
4-chlorophenyl phenyl ether	170[b]	0.6[b]
4-Bromophenyl phenyl ether	160[b]	0.4[b]
Bis(2-chloroisopropyl)ether	140[b]	0.7[b]
Bis(2-hloroethoxy)methane	130[b]	1[b]
Miscellaneous		
	µg/kg	**µg/l**
Isophorone	10	1

[a]The primary source of these TDLs was EPA 823-B-95-001, *QA/QC Guidance for Sampling and Analysis of Sediments, Water and Tissues for Dredged Material Evaluations*.
[b]These values are based on recommendations from the EPA Region 6 Laboratory in Houston; these values were based on data or other technical basis.
[c]The values in parentheses are based on EPA "clean techniques", (EPA 1600 series methods) which are applicable in instances where other TDLs are inadequate to assess EPA water quality criteria.
[d]This value recommended by Houston Lab using colorimetric method.
[e]Metals shall be expressed as Dissolved values in water samples, except for mercury and selenium, which shall be reported as Total Recoverable Concentrations.

Project: **Brazos Island Harbor - Jetty Channel** Task Order #:

Date(s) Collected: 4/26/2004 Tide, MLT: 1.4 ft outgoing

Wind Direction: Northeast Wind Speed: 10-15 mph

Weather and Water Conditions: 100% cloud cover, windy, seas 3-5 feet

Sample Number	BH-04-01AA	BH-04-01AB	BH-04-01AC	BH-04-01BA	BH-04-01BA	BH-04-01BC	BH-04-3+250A	BH-04-3+250B	BH-04-3+250C
Station	-1+500	-1+500	-1+500	-2+500	-2+500	-2+500	-3+250	-3+250	-3+250
Distance From C_L (Ft.)	100 S	0	100 N	100 S	0	100 N	100 S	0	100 N
Water Depth MLT (Ft.)	44.0	45.2	45.8	37.0	42.1	29.6	43.8	43.7	42.0
DO (mg/L)	6.35	6.15	6.25	6.26	6.19	6.12	6.29	6.14	6.15
pH	8.44	8.43	8.44	8.42	8.42	8.42	8.41	8.42	8.42
Salinity ($^o/_{oo}$)	35.48	35.49	35.54	35.48	35.49	35.50	35.45	35.45	35.42
Water Temp. (°C)	21.89	21.87	21.88	21.80	21.82	21.81	21.84	21.86	21.83
Air Temp. (°C)	22.3	22.3	22.3	22.8	22.7	22.7	22.8	22.8	22.8
Lat.	N26.06565	N26.06594	N26.06621	N26.06569	N26.06673	N26.06624	N26.06571	N26.06598	N26.06626
Long.	W97.15804	W97.15804	W97.15805	W97.15499	W97.15498	W97.15499	W97.15271	W97.15271	W97.15270
Time	17:50	18:10	18:25	17:15	17:26	17:24	17:05	17:10	17:13
Comment	Duplicated as BH-04-03A								

REMARKS:

Project: **Brazos Island Harbor - Jetty Channel** Task Order #:

Date(s) Collected: 4/26/2004 Tide, MLT: 1.3 ft. outgoing

Wind Direction: Northeast Wind Speed: 10-15 mph

Weather and Water Conditions: 100% cloud cover, windy, seas 3-6 feet

Sample Number	BH-04-4+000A	BH-04-4+000B	BH-04-4+000C	BH-04-02A	BH-04-02B	BH-04-02C			
Station	-4+000	-4+000	-4+000	-5+000	-5+000	-5+000			
Distance From C_L (Ft.)	100 S	0	100 N	100 S	0	100 N			
Water Depth MLT (Ft.)	47.5	46.8	45.7	51.8	47.9	47.4			
DO (mg/L)	6.94	6.31	6.20	6.20	6.69	6.21			
pH	8.39	8.38	8.39	8.21	8.33	8.36			
Salinity ($^o/_{oo}$)	35.49	35.51	35.51	35.52	35.52	35.51			
Water Temp. (°C)	21.82	21.77	21.76	21.70	21.71	21.72			
Air Temp. (°C)	22.6	22.5	22.6	22.6	22.6	22.5			
Lat.	N26.06573	N26.06600	N26.06628	N26.06576	N26.06603	N26.06631			
Long.	W97.15042	W97.15042	W97.15042	W97.14738	W97.14738	W97.14738			
Time	16:50	16:55	17:00	16:20	16:10	15:49			
Comment				*	*	*			

REMARKS: * Moved station 425' south to obtain sediment. Depth 32.4'

Kathleen Hartnett White, *Chairman*
R. B. "Ralph" Marquez, *Commissioner*
Larry R. Soward, *Commissioner*

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

July 15, 2004

Mr. Rob Hauch
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Galveston District CESWG-PE-RE
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Re: USACE Permit Application No. RIO-M-4

Dear Mr. Hauch:

As stated in the Joint Public Notice, dated June 21, 2004, the applicant, United States Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), must periodically dredge the entrance channel of the Brazos Island Harbor (BIH). Existing placement areas are located along the beach, approximately one mile north of the north jetty, proceeding northward up the beach, and just offshore and north of the north jetty. The Corps is requesting an additional placement area be allowed at Isla Blanca Park directly next to the north jetty and proceeding up the beach to the current placement area. The Public Notice states that placement opportunities may include discharge of material into the surf zone, allowing natural processes to winnow out silts and allow currents to distribute the material along the shoreline.

In addition to the information contained in the public notice, the following information is needed for review and certification of the proposed project. Responses to this letter may raise other questions that will need to be addressed before a water quality certification determination can be made.

1. Title 30, Texas Administrative Code (TAC), Chapter 279.11(c)(1), states that "No discharge shall be certified if there is a practicable alternative to the proposed discharge which would have less adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem,..." Please fill out and return the enclosed Alternative's Analysis and 401 Questionnaire. Please state other placement area options should the dredge material be found to contain organic and/or non-organic substances that may be leached from the sand in amounts sufficient to interfere with the designated uses of the Gulf beach.

2. Please submit copies of the most recent dredge material and placement area laboratory reports with grain size analyses from previous BIH dredging operations. In addition, when BIH dredging resumes, please submit current dredge material and placement area laboratory reports containing grain size analyses. Beach nourishment material shall not contain

radioactive content, total recoverable petroleum hydrocarbons (TRPH), heavy metals (Arsenic, Barium, Cadmium, Chromium, Mercury, Lead, Selenium), volatile halogenated organics, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, or other contaminants at levels in excess of the mean levels measured within the naturally occurring beach sediments of the placement area.

3. Please provide more precise information regarding the placement areas including how far into the surf zone and how far from the jetties the placement will occur.

4. Please provide information about equipment staging areas. Secondary impacts from these staging areas may require mitigation if intertidal areas are affected.

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality looks forward to receiving and evaluating other agency or public comments. Please provide any agency comments, public comments, as well as the applicant's comments, to Mr. Peter Schaefer of the Water Quality Division MC-150, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Mr. Schaefer may also be contacted by phone at (512) 239-4372, or by e-mail at *pschaefe@tceq.state.tx.us*

Sincerely,

L'Oreal Stepney

L'Oreal W. Stepney, Director
Water Quality Division
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

LWS/PS/sa

Enclosure

State Water Quality Certification of Section 404 Permits

Does your project meet Texas' water quality standards?

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) must consider this question for all proposed projects seeking a Section 404 dredge and fill permit.

✧✧✧✧✧✧✧✧

One of the requirements for obtaining a Corps of Engineers Section 404 permit is certification from the TCEQ that the permit will comply with State water quality standards. This requirement is authorized by Section 401 of the Federal Clean Water Act, and is therefore referred to as 401 certification.

The attached 401 certification questionnaire must be submitted in order for the TCEQ to determine whether or not a project should be granted 401 certification. Please note that the information requested in this questionnaire is *not* required in order for a Section 404 application to be considered administratively complete by the Corps of Engineers. However, failure to provide this information (including the Alternatives Analysis Checklist) to the TCEQ (within 30 days of the public notice) may cause your project to be denied 401 certification without prejudice.

What do you need to submit to TCEQ?

1. A completed 401 certification questionnaire

2. A completed Alternatives Analysis Checklist (if your project affects surface water in the State, including wetlands)

3. A map with the location of the project clearly marked (A U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) topographic map *strongly recommended*)

4. Photographs or a video cassette showing the project area and any associated disposal areas (Map and photos should be numbered to show where the photos were taken and the area covered by each photo)

What is involved in review of Section 401 certifications?

1. Filing an application with the Corps starts both the 404 permit and the 401 certification processes

2. A Joint Public Notice is issued by the Corps and the TCEQ after receipt by the Corps of a completed application to inform the public and other government agencies of the proposed activity

   - A 30 day comment period follows
   - The TCEQ may hold a public hearing to consider the potential adverse impacts of the proposed project on water quality

3. The TCEQ may request additional information from the application, persons submitting comments or requesting a hearing, or other resource agencies

4. A final 401 certification decision will be provided following the end of the comment period.

Revised - June 15, 2004

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Tier II
Alternatives Analysis Checklist

I. Alternatives

A. How could you satisfy your needs in ways which do not affect surface water in the State?

B. How could the project be re-designed to fit the site without affecting surface water in the State?

C. How could the project be made smaller and still meet your needs?

D. What other sites were considered?

1. What geographical area was searched for alternative sites?
2. How did you determine whether other non-wetland sites are available for development in the area?
3. In recent years, have you sold or leased any lands located within the vicinity of the project? If so, why were they unsuitable for the project?

E. What are the consequences of not building the project?

II. Comparison of alternatives

A. How do the costs compare for the alternatives considered above?

B. Are there logistical (location, access, transportation, etc.) reasons that limit the alternatives considered?

C. Are there technological limitations for the alternatives considered?

D. Are there other reasons certain alternatives are not feasible?

III. If you have not chosen an alternative which would avoid impacts to surface water in the State, please explain:

A. Why your alternative was selected, and

B. What you plan to do to minimize adverse effects on the surface water in the State impacted.

IV. Please provide a comparison of each criteria (from Part II) for each site evaluation in the alternatives analysis.

Revised - June 15, 2004

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Tier II
401 Certification Questionnaire

The following questions seek to determine how adverse impacts will be avoided during construction or upon completion of the project. If any of the following questions are not applicable to your project, write NA ("not applicable") and continue.

Please include the applicant's name as it appears on the Corps of Engineers' permit application (and permit number, if known) on all material submitted. The material should be sent to:

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Attn: 401 Coordinator (MC-150)
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

I. Impacts to surface water in the State, including wetlands

A. What is the area of surface water in the State, including wetlands, that will be disturbed, altered or destroyed by the proposed activity?

B. Is compensatory mitigation proposed? If yes, submit a copy of the mitigation plan. If no, explain why not.

C. Please complete the attached Alternatives Analysis Checklist.

II. Disposal of waste materials

A. Describe the methods for disposing of materials recovered from the removal or destruction of existing structures.

B. Describe the methods for disposing of sewage generated during construction. If the proposed work establishes a business or a subdivision, describe the method for disposing of sewage after completing the project.

C. For marinas, describe plans for collecting and disposing of sewage from marine sanitation devices. Also, discuss provisions for the disposing of sewage generated from day-to-day activities.

III. Water quality impacts

A. Describe the methods to minimize the short-term and long-term turbidity and suspended solids in the waters being dredged and/or filled. Also, describe the type of sediment (sand, clay, etc.) that will be dredged or used for fill.

B. Describe measures that will be used to stabilize disturbed soil areas, including: dredge material mounds, new levees or berms, building sites, and construction work areas. The description should address both short-term (construction related) and long-term (normal operation or maintenance) measures. Typical measures might include containment structures, drainage modifications, sediment fences, or vegetative cover. Special construction techniques intended to minimize soil or sediment disruption should also be described.

C. Discuss how hydraulically dredged materials will be handled to ensure maximum settling of solids before discharging the decant water. Plans should include a calculation of minimum settling times with supporting data (Reference: Technical Report, DS-7810, Dredge Material Research Program, GUIDELINES FOR DESIGNING, OPERATING, AND MAINTAINING DREDGED MATERIAL CONTAINMENT AREAS). If future maintenance dredging will be required, the disposal site should be designed to accommodate additional dredged materials. If not, please include plans for periodically removing the dried sediments from the disposal area.

D. Describe any methods used to test the sediments for contamination, especially when dredging in an area known or likely to be contaminated, such as downstream of municipal or industrial wastewater discharges.

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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

August 18, 2004

Environmental Section

Mr. Peter Schaefer
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Water Quality Division MC-150
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Schaefer:

Reference is made to Ms. L'Oreal Stepney's letter dated July 15, 2004 concerning USACE Project RIO-M-4. Her letter posed several questions that I will answer with each response corresponding to the numbered question.

1. Many of the items on the 401 Alternative Analysis and Questionnaire do not apply to this project. The purpose of the proposed action is to use dredged material beneficially to replace beach area lost through erosion. Any other alternative would not accomplish this objective. Nonetheless, consideration of alternatives is required by NEPA, and this analysis is addressed in the Environmental Assessment (EA) that is currently under development. The EA will be provided to your agency for review, when it becomes available.

   The material to be deposited on the beach is naturally occurring Gulf of Mexico sediments that have been redistributed into the navigation channel through wave and current action in the Gulf. The source of the dredged material is not located in the vicinity of known contaminant sources, or industrial or municipal discharges.

   The proposed beach nourishment operation is intended to be a recurring event. The entire beach area described in the Public Notice will not be nourished during each dredging event. Future material placement will depend on where it is needed most. Typically, based on an estimated quantity of 400,000 cubic yards (CY), approximately 70 acres of beach fill would result. Of this area, about 20 acres of beach would be above mean high tide (about +3.5 NGVD). Beach nourishment operations will not impact dune areas or wetlands, so no mitigation is required.

   Placement of the material would typically begin above the high tide line below the vegetation line and advance toward the surf zone. As the discharge progresses, the beach berm will grow toward the Gulf so that discharge directly into the surf zone is generally not anticipated. However, surf zone discharge may be performed if necessary to achieve the desired beach profile. The material would not be confined during discharge; an energy dissipater will be used at the end of the discharge pipe to reduce flow velocity and prevent scour. The water entrained during hydraulic dredging will be allowed to flow into the Gulf, thereby resulting in a temporary

elevation of TSS from any fine-grained sediments excavated along with the sand. Operations are generally completed in about two weeks. This TSS will be rapidly dissipated by wave action once discharge operations are completed. After placement, the material will be graded to match the elevation of the adjacent beach.

No other construction or demolition activities will be performed. The beach area to be nourished is located adjacent to a public park with available sanitary facilities for contractor personnel.

In the unlikely event that the dredged material is deemed unsuitable for beach nourishment at the proposed site, other previously-designated placements areas are available.

2. Enclosed are copies of some historic data, along with recent data collected from the Jetty Channel. Tables of the most recent data show only detected analytes; also enclosed is the complete list of contaminants analyzed, and sheets containing field-collected data and sample locations. The channel station numbers are depicted on the enclosed plans.

   All water and elutriate concentrations were below Texas Surface Water Quality Standards, where they exist.

   The sediment quality data are based on analyses of composite samples comprised of subsamples collected perpendicular to the centerline of the channel. Since there are no EPA quality criteria for sediments, a comparison with sediment quality screening guidelines along with a review of historical data was conducted. These indicate that unacceptable adverse impacts would not result from dredging and discharge operations.

3. It is not possible to determine where future placement might occur, since the location would depend on where the material will be needed. For the upcoming dredging event, scheduled for this November, the material will be deposited in an area that extends from 1,200 to 2,700 feet north of the north jetty. This site will be used for about 20 percent of the material to be dredged under this contract. The majority of the dredged material will be used for beach nourishment at a previously approved location. Based on a quantity of 400,000 CY, approximately 5,000 feet of beach can be nourished. The profile could extend as much as 400 feet into the surf zone when the water level is at mean high tide. Regardless of the quantity of material, the typical profile would remain relatively constant, but the length of beach that can be nourished would vary.

4. Generally, there will be very little need for equipment staging areas. Dredging operations usually occur in isolated areas with no land access, so the contractors are accustomed to operating from barges. The dredge pipe will probably be transported by barge and transported across the jetty to the discharge site. Equipment such as bulldozers or tractors will needed to move the pipe and grade the new beach material.

This equipment may be transported by the project area by truck. Staging of this equipment will occur within establish roads or parking lots associated with Isla Blanca Park. Access to the beach will be through established access points. No wetlands or dune areas will be impacted.

Only two other responses to the Public Notice were received. Enclosed are the comments and our responses. I hope this letter provides the information you need to make your determination. Should you need additional information or have any questions concerning the proposed operations, please call Rob Hauch at (409) 766-3913.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosures

APPENDIX C

Compliance with the Texas Coastal Management Program

Coastal Coordination Council

P.O. Box 12873 ♦ Austin, Texas 78711-2873 ♦ (512) 463-5385 ♦ FAX (512) 475-0680

Chairman

Jerry Patterson
Texas Land Commissioner

♦

Members

Victor Carrillo
ailroad Commission of Texas

Mayor Victor Pierson
Coastal Government Representative

John Barrett
Agriculture Representative

Memo Benavides
Texas State Soil & Water Conservation Board

Jack Gibson
astal Business Representative

Jack Hunt
xas Water Development Board

John W. Johnson
as Transportation Commission

Robert Jones
astal Resident Representative

Larry R. Soward
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

Robert R. Stickney
Sea Grant College Program

Mark E. Watson, Jr.
arks & Wildlife Commission of Texas

♦

Diane P. Garcia
Council Secretary

Permit Service Center
1-866-894-3578

August 9, 2004

Mr. Robert Hauch
US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston
CESWG-PE
PO Box 1229
Galveston, TX 77551-1229

Re: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Public Notice No. RIO-M-4
Extension of Beach Nourishment Area on South Padre Island

Dear Mr. Hauch:

Pursuant to Section 506.30 of 31 TAC of the Coastal Coordination Act, the project referenced above has been reviewed for consistency with the Texas Coastal Management Program (CMP).

The project was reviewed for impacts to coastal natural resource areas within the CMP boundary. No unavoidable adverse impacts were found. Therefore, this project is consistent with the CMP goals and policies.

Sincerely,

Thomas R. Calnan

Thomas R. Calnan
Consistency Review Coordinator
Texas General Land Office

TRC/tsb

cc: Matthew Mahoney, GLO

APPENDIX D

Coordination with Others

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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

August 19, 2004

Environmental Section

Ms. Georgia Cranmore
Acting Assistant RA for Protected Resources
Southeast Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
9721 Executive Center Drive, North
St. Petersburg, Florida 33702

Dear Ms. Cranmore:

This letter is in regard to the maintenance dredging and placement of dredged material from the Brazos Island Harbor – Entrance Channel Project, in Cameron County Texas. The Galveston District is currently developing an alternative dredged material placement plan. The proposed plan would use the material beneficially to nourish beach areas on South Padre Island.

Please review the enclosed Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the proposed work. This DEA supplements, and incorporates by reference, a previous environmental assessment (EA) for similar work at adjacent beach areas. I have also enclosed this EA for your convenience. The overall conclusion of this assessment is that this work would not result in any adverse impacts on federally-listed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat.

I am hereby requesting your written concurrence, pursuant to 50 CFR 402.13, that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect listed species or critical habitat under your jurisdiction.

We appreciate your continued cooperation in allowing us to fulfill our responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act. Should you need additional information or have any questions please call Mr. Rob Hauch at (409) 766-3913.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Murphy

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office
9721 Executive Center Dr. N.
St. Petersburg, FL 33702
(727) 570-5312, FAX 570-5517
http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov

AUG 25 2004

F/SER3:EGH

Ms. Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, TX 77553-1229

Dear Mr. Carney:

This correspondence responds to the Department of the Army's letter to the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries), Protected Resources Division, dated August 19, 2004, and draft Environmental Assessment (EA) "Extension of Beach Nourishment Area on South Padre Island." The Galveston District proposes to use material dredged from the Brazos Island Harbor – Entrance Channel Project, Cameron County, Texas, to beneficially to nourish beach areas at Island Blanca Park on South Padre Island. You requested our review and comments on the EA.

We believe the EA adequately addresses the issues associated with threatened and endangered species under NOAA Fisheries' purview. We have no additional comments.

We look forward to continued cooperation with the Army in conserving our endangered and threatened resources. If you have any questions regarding the ESA consultation process, please contact Mr. Eric Hawk, fishery biologist, at (727) 570-5779, or by e-mail at Eric.Hawk@noaa.gov.

Sincerely,

David Bernhart
Assistant Regional Administrator
for Protected Resources

File: 1514-22.f.1.TX
Ref: I/SER/2004/00963

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

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Environmental Section

August 19, 2004

Mr. Allan Strand
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
c/o TAMU-CC, Box 338
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412

Dear Mr. Strand:

This letter is in regard to the maintenance dredging and placement of dredged material from the Brazos Island Harbor – Entrance Channel Project, in Cameron County Texas. The Galveston District is currently developing an alternative dredged material placement plan. The proposed plan would use the material beneficially to nourish beach areas on South Padre Island.

Please review the enclosed Draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) for the proposed work. This DEA supplements, and incorporates by reference, a previous environmental assessment (EA) for similar work at adjacent beach areas. I have also enclosed this EA for your convenience. The overall conclusion of this assessment is that this work would not result in any adverse impacts on federally-listed threatened or endangered species, or critical habitat.

I am hereby requesting your written concurrence, pursuant to 50 CFR 402.13, that the proposed action is not likely to adversely affect listed species or critical habitat under your jurisdiction.

We appreciate your continued cooperation in allowing us to fulfill our responsibilities under the Endangered Species Act. Should you need additional information or have any questions please call Mr. Rob Hauch at (409) 766-3913.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Murphy

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure

Hauch, Robert G SWG

From: Hauch, Robert G SWG
Sent: Thursday, August 19, 2004 9:00 AM
To: Rusty Swafford (E-mail)
Subject: EFH - BIH Beach Nourishment

Rusty,

Attached is a copy of Public Notice No. RIO-M-4 describing our proposed designation of additional beach nourishment area for beneficial use of dredged material from the Brazos Island Harbor Entrance Channel. Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, potential impacts to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) were assessed. Our determination is that the proposed action will affect EFH only minimally and temporarily in individual or cumulative effects, and that mitigation for these impacts is not required.

Please review the Public Notice and provide any comments concerning EFH or concurrence with our conclusions. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Thanks,
Rob Hauch
409-766-3913

Public Notice RIO-M-4.pdf

Hauch, Robert G SWG

From: Rusty Swafford [Rusty.Swafford@noaa.gov]
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2004 1:15 PM
To: Hauch Robert G SWG
Subject: Re: EFH - BIH Beach Nourishment

Rob,
I've reviewed the proposed project and concur that the project would have very minimal adverse impact on EFH and associated managed species. Therefore, no further EFH consultation is required for this project. Hopefully, this email will suffice for your files. if not, let me know and I will write a formal letter.
Rusty

"Hauch, Robert G SWG" wrote:

Rusty,

Attached is a copy of Public Notice No. RIO-M-4 describing our proposed designation of additional beach nourishment area for beneficial use of dredged material from the Brazos Island Harbor Entrance Channel. Pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, potential impacts to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) were assessed. Our determination is that the proposed action will affect EFH only minimally and temporarily in individual or cumulative effects, and that mitigation for these impacts is not required.

Please review the Public Notice and provide any comments concerning EFH or concurrence with our conclusions. If you have any questions or need additional information, please let me know.

Thanks,

Rob Hauch

409-766-3913

<<Public Notice RIO-M-4.pdf>>

Name: Public Notice
RIO-M-4.pdf
Type: Portable Document Format
Public Notice RIO-M-4.pdf (application/pdf)
Encoding: base64
Download Status: Not downloaded with
message

APPENDIX E

Distribution of the Draft Environmental Assessment

Distribution of the Draft Environmental Assessment

State Agencies

Executive Director
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744

Director, Coastal Division
General Land Office
1700 North Congress
Austin, Texas 78711

Mr. Woody Woodrow
Regional Program Leader
Resource Protection Division
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
1502 Pine Drive (FM 517)
Dickinson, TX 77539

Honorable Rick Perry
Governor of Texas
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711

Mr. Leslie Savage
Railroad Commission of Texas
Environmental Services
P.O. Drawer 12967, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

Mr. Tom Adams
Governor's Office of Budget & Planning
State Single Point of Contact
1100 San Jacinto, Room 441A
Austin, Texas 78701

State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
105 W. 16th Street
Austin, Texas 78701

Mr. Lee Munz, Planner
TX State Soil and Water Conservation Board
P.O. Box 658
Temple, Texas 76503-0658

Mr. Mark Fisher
TCEQ-MC150
P.O. Box 13087
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Dr. Gary Powell
Texas Water Development Board
Environmental Systems Section
P.O. Box 13231
Austin, Texas 78711

Ms. Mary Ellen Vega
Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept.
Resource Protection Division
6300 Ocean Dr., NRC Bldg., Ste. 2501
Corpus Christi, Texas 78412

Mr. Robert W. Spain
Assistant Director for Resource Protection
Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, Texas 78744-3291

Mr. Peter Schaefer
TCEQ-MC150
P.O. Box 13087
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Federal Agencies

Area Supervisor
National Marine Fisheries Service
Environmental Assessment Branch
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, Texas 77550

Ms. Georgia Cranmore
Acting Assistant RA for Protected Resources
Southeast Regional Office
National Marine Fisheries Service
9721 Executive Center Drive, North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Jane B. Watson, Ph.D.
Chief, Ecosystems Protection Branch
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Mr. Mike Jansky, P.E.
NEPA Compliance Section (6EN-SP)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Field Supervisor
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
c/o TAMU-CC, Box 338
6300 Ocean Drive
Corpus Christi, Texas, 78412

Ms. Renee Bellew
Marine & Wetlands Section (6WQ-EW)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Non-Federal Project Sponsor

M.C. Ball
City Planner
P.O. Box 3410
South Padre Island, TX 78597

Mr. Kenneth L. Conway
Director, Cameron County Park System
Isla Blanca Park
P.O. Box 2106
South Padre Island, TX 78597

General Manager & Port Director
Port of Brownsville
P.O. Box 3070
Brownsville, TX 78523-3070

Other Commenters

Mr. Gene M. Washburn
Management Consultant
Water Resources Development
P.O. Box 2010
130 Padre Blvd. #513
South Padre Island, TX 78597

APPENDIX F

Comments and Responses to the Draft Environmental Assessment

Comments received on this Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and responses will be included in the Final EA in this Appendix.