

# **U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Southwestern Division**



**Revised 08/25/23  
Version – 1.1**

# **SWD CAP PROGRAMMATIC REVIEW PLAN**

## **Feasibility Phases**

### **ATTACHMENT 3: CAP REVIEW COORDINATION SHEETS**

#### **Project Information Sheet**

2024-12-11

**Project Name:** CAP Magnolia Beach, ER, Calhoun County, TX

**CAP Authority:** 206

**P2 Number:** 479837

**District:** Galveston

**District Contact:** Heather Briscoe, Project Manager,  
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**RMO:** Southwestern Division

**RMO Contact:** Mark Shafer, Program Manager, [mark.d.shafer@usace.army.mil](mailto:mark.d.shafer@usace.army.mil), (469) 487-7020

**Location:** Magnolia Beach, Calhoun County, Texas (Figure 1)

**Authority:** Section 206 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996, Public Law 104-305, authorizes the Secretary of the Army to carry out a program of aquatic ecosystem restoration with the objective of restoring degraded ecosystem structure, function, and dynamic processes to a less degraded, more natural condition considering the ecosystem's natural integrity, productivity, stability and biological diversity. This authority is primarily used for manipulation of the hydrology in and along bodies of water, including wetlands and riparian areas. This authority also allows for dam removal.

**Sponsor:** Calhoun County, Texas

**Project Area:** Calhoun County, Texas is a coastal county located on the mid-Texas coast where US Highway 87 begins, and the Guadalupe River ends. Port Lavaca, the county seat, is located on the west shoreline of Lavaca Bay (Figure 1). Port Lavaca is 26 miles southeast of Victoria, 82 miles northeast of Corpus Christi, 127 miles southwest of Houston, 145 miles southeast of San Antonio, and 150 miles south-southeast of Austin. Latitude: 28° 32' 10" N by Longitude: 96° 37' 13" W. The study area will be called Magnolia Beach (Figure 1).

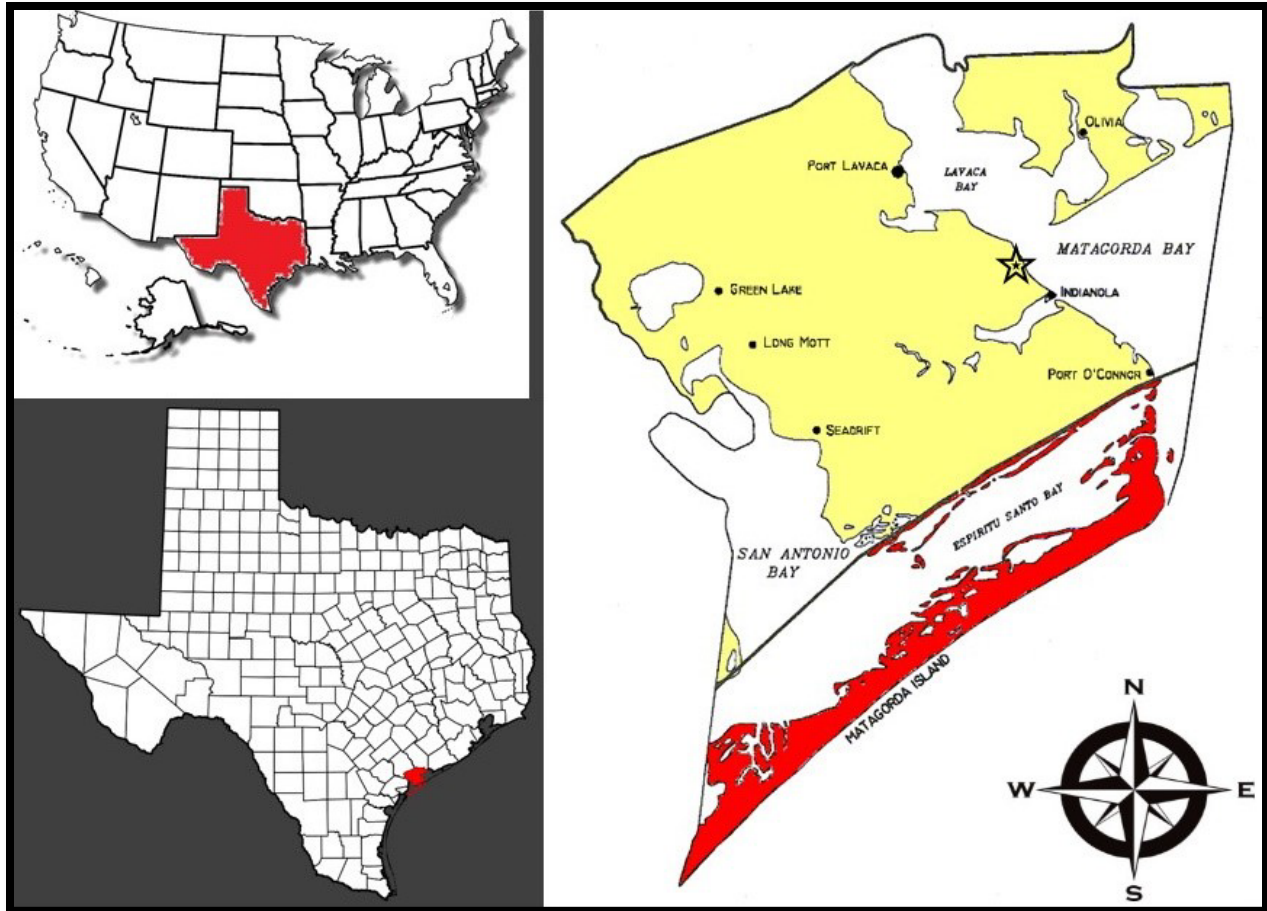


Figure 1 - Study Location

**Problem Statement:** Coastal salt marshes are dependent on periodic tidal inundation to dilute salinity levels, allow for nutrient exchange, and permit aquatic species exchange. When barriers block tidal flow and impounds water, salinity levels increase through evaporation. Finfish and shellfish are unable to enter or leave for reproductive purposes.

The lack of water exchange can also lead to high water temperatures, low dissolved oxygen levels and high levels of deadly bacteria such as vibrio. In 2019, a gentleman went crabbing in the cells of the Magnolia Beach tidal marsh and contracted a fatal case of necrotizing fasciitis after contact with marsh water and marine life.

- Multiple obstructions block tidal flows
- Multiple obstructions block flows between marsh cells
  - Impounded water sits and salt concentrates from evaporation

**Federal Interest:** Federal interest for a Section 206 CAP project is determined by having a potential for an alternative for the project area to meet CAP criteria. Based on all available information to date, the potential for Federal Interest in the Magnolia Beach 206, Calhoun County, Texas Section 206 study does exist.

The PDT considered a range of alternatives formulated during development of the FID without formal plan formulation or evaluation and comparison. The PDT believes some of these have potential for implementation within the limits of the CAP program and these plans as well as others to be identified during formal plan formulation should be examined further in this study.

Calhoun County, Texas recognizes that they will provide 50% of the cost of the Feasibility study once it exceeds \$100,000. The local sponsor is also aware of the cost sharing requirements for the potential project implementation phase (design and construction) of 35%, with a mandatory 5% cash contribution for structural projects. The local sponsor is aware that non-Federal design and implementation work cannot be credited toward the 5% cash requirement. Federal per project limit is \$10,000,000 of total project costs.

Due to the complexity of the problems and solutions in the study area, it's quite possible that Total Project Costs may reach the statutory limits of a Section 206 project.

### **Risk Identification:**

1. Issue: Multiple real estate owners in study / project area (Figure 3)
  - a. Study Risk: Low – Real Estate sees no issue in getting permission for non-intrusive site visits for study.
  - b. Study Risk: Medium to High – Any project will require the NFS to either purchase multiple parcels or enter into permanent easements, possibly non-standard estates.
  - c. Implementation Risk: Medium to High – LERRDs could take up a large part of limited implementation costs before exceeding CAP Section 206 cost limitations.
2. Issue: Limited existing hydrologic and hydraulic modeling, and cultural resources information.
  - a. Study Risk: Medium – H&H modeling is limited.
  - b. Study Risk: Medium –interagency coordination to prepare an in-depth cultural report increases study costs.
3. Issue: Limited or no information on sediment characteristics of the marsh.
  - a. Implementation Risk: Medium to High – Prior to implementation, sediments will need to be tested for HTRW issues. Any issues discovered will need to be addressed by the non-federal sponsor prior to construction.

**IEPR Determination:** N/A

**SAR Determination:** N/A

**Table 1 - Milestone Schedule**

	Scheduled	Actual	Complete
Federal Interest Determination:	27 MAY 21	27 MAY 21	Yes
Tentatively Selected Plan:	JAN 26	<i>(Month Year)</i>	<i>(Yes/No)</i>
Release Draft Report to Public:	FEB 26	<i>(Month Year)</i>	<i>(Yes/No)</i>
Final Report Transmittal:	DEC 26	<i>(Month Year)</i>	<i>(Yes/No)</i>
TOTAL			\$42,000



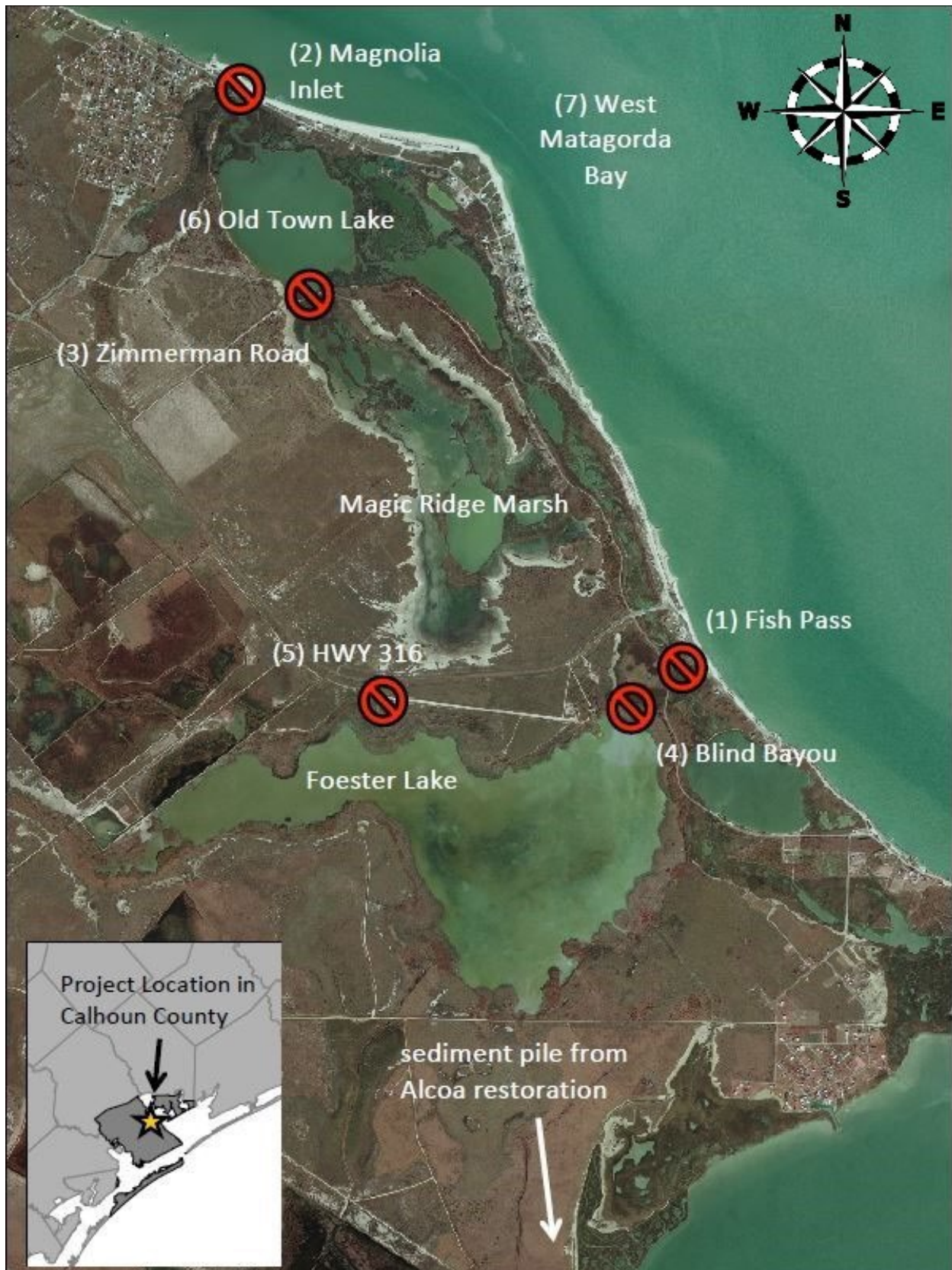


Figure 2 – Magnolia Beach 206 Study & Project Area (blocked inlets / outlets in red)



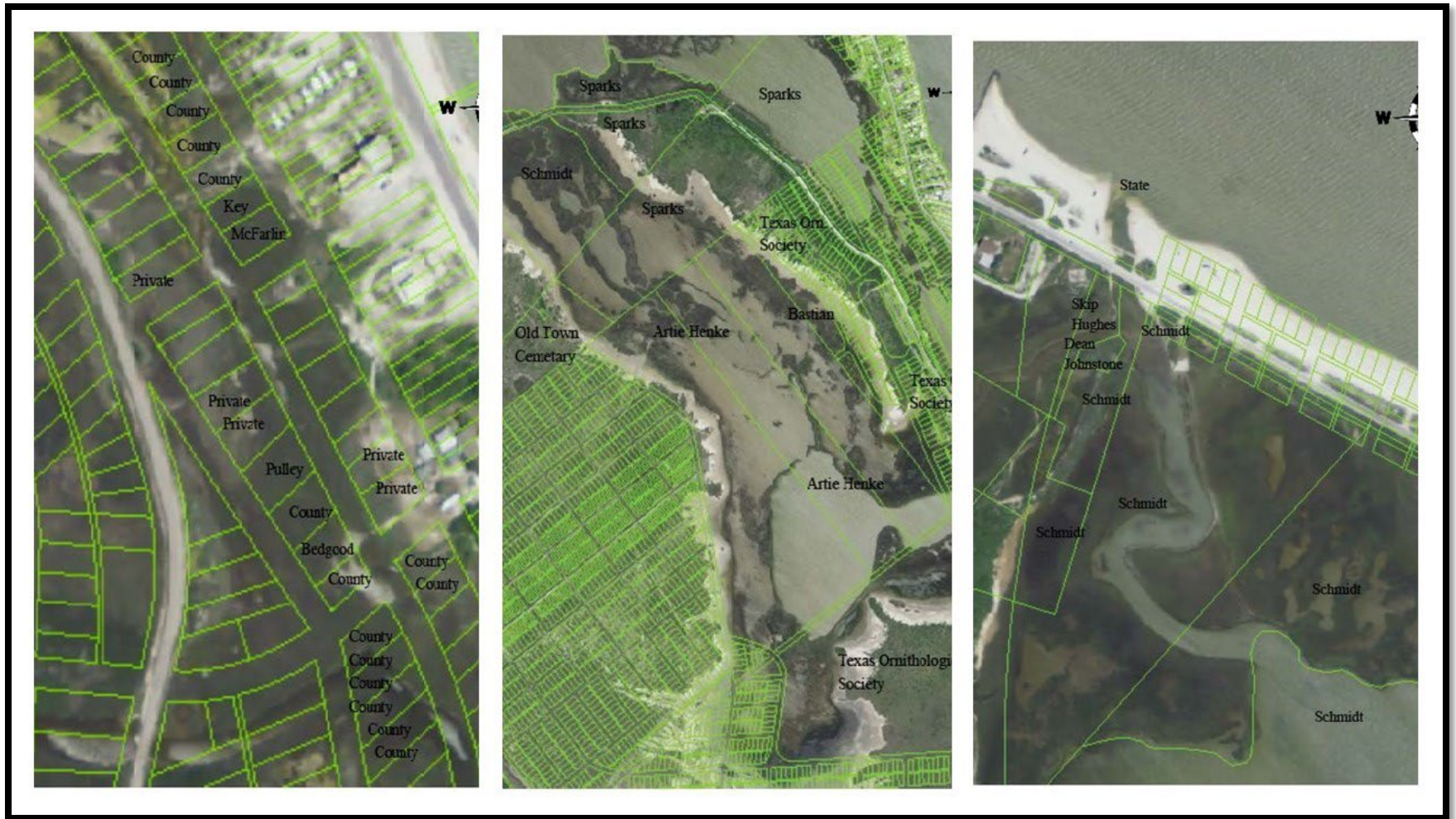


Figure 3 – Some Real Estate Parcels in Study / Project Area (in green)