

APPENDIX G

DRAFT FONSI

BAY AQUATIC BENEFICIAL USE SITES

GALVESTON BAY, TEXAS

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT
2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, Texas 77550



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR
BAY AQUATIC BENEFICIAL USE SITES (BABUS)
GALVESTON BAY CHAMBERS COUNTY, TEXAS

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District (Corps) has conducted an Environmental Assessment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Bay Aquatic Beneficial Use Sites (BABUS) Project addresses potential impacts associated with the construction and use of a beneficial use placement area for future maintenance dredged material from the Houston Ship Channel.

The EA, incorporated herein by reference, evaluates potential impacts associated with the construction and use of the Bay Aquatic Beneficial Use Sites (BABUS) for the beneficial placement of maintenance dredged material from the authorized dredging of the Houston Ship Channel.

For all alternatives, the potential effects were evaluated, as appropriate. A summary assessment of the potential effects of the recommended plan is listed in Table 1:

Table 1: Summary of Potential Effects of the Recommended Plan

	Insignificant Negative Effects	Insignificant effects as a result of mitigation	Resource unaffected by action
Aesthetics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Air quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Aquatic resources/wetlands	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive species	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fish and wildlife habitat	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Threatened/Endangered species/critical habitat	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Historic properties	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Other cultural resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Floodplains	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hazardous, toxic & radioactive waste	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Hydrology	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Land use	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Navigation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Noise levels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Public infrastructure	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Socio-economics	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Soils	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tribal trust resources	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Water quality	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Climate change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

All practicable and appropriate means to avoid or minimize adverse environmental effects were analyzed and incorporated into the recommended plan. Best management practices (BMPs) as detailed in the DEA will be implemented, if appropriate, to minimize impacts where necessary.

No compensatory mitigation is required as part of the recommended plan.

There will be a public review of the DEA and FONSI. All comments submitted during the public review period will be responded to in the Final EA and FONSI.

Pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect the West Indian Manatee (T), loggerhead sea turtle (*Caretta caretta*) (T), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*) (E), green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) (T). Conservation measures described in the DEA will be implemented to ensure the effects of the proposed work will not adversely affect the species listed above.

Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers determined that the recommended plan does not affect historic properties through coordination with the Texas Historical Commission.

Pursuant to the Clean Water Act of 1972, as amended, the discharge of dredged or fill material associated with the recommended plan has been found to be compliant with section 404(b)(1) Guidelines (40 CFR 230). The Clean Water Act Section 404(b)(1) Guidelines evaluation is found in Appendix F to the EA.

A water quality certification pursuant to section 401 of the Clean Water Act is currently being reviewed by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality. All conditions of the pending water quality certification will be implemented in order to minimize adverse impacts to water quality.

A determination of consistency with the Texas Coastal Zone Management program pursuant to the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 will be obtained from the Texas General Land Office for the EA. All conditions of the consistency determination shall be implemented to minimize adverse impacts on the coastal zone.

All applicable environmental laws have been considered and coordination with appropriate agencies and officials will be completed.

Technical, environmental, and economic criteria used in the formulation of alternative plans were those specified in the Water Resources Council's 1983 Economic and Environmental Principles and Guidelines for Water and Related Land Resources Implementation Studies. All applicable laws, executive orders, regulations, and local government plans were considered in evaluation of alternatives. Based on this report, the reviews by other Federal, State and local agencies, Tribes, input of the public, and the review by my staff, it is my determination that the recommended plan would not cause significant adverse effects on the quality of the human environment; therefore, preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

Date

Rhett A. Blackmon
Colonel, Corps of Engineers
District Commander