



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
441 G STREET, NW  
WASHINGTON, DC 20314-1000

AUG 17 2016

Dr. M. Katherine Banks  
Vice Chancellor and Dean of Engineering  
Director, Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station  
Dwight Look College of Engineering  
3126 Texas A&M University  
College Station, Texas 77843-3126

Dear Dr. Banks,

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is pleased to express support for the Galveston District's initiative, in collaboration with the Corps' Engineer Research and Development Center, to coordinate with the Texas A&M University (TAMU) Department of Ocean Engineering, for advancing a value proposition that establishes a Coastal Science and Engineering Collaborative (CSEC) on the Gulf Coast. I believe strategically synchronizing resources, assets, and expertise of our organizations will deliver significant and enduring value on the Gulf Coast through advancement of education, research, and coastal infrastructure management.

In September 2015, the 92<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Board of Coastal Engineering Research (Board) convened in Galveston, Texas, to identify the Gulf Coast's engineering challenges to enhance the resilience of coastal systems and marine transportation infrastructure and sustain the values they produce. The Board also sought to identify research and development needs to enable the Corps and the Nation to deliver innovative solutions to meet these challenges and opportunities. The concept of the CSEC arose and was discussed as an initiative with subsequent considerations to proceed with developing a five year program management plan (PgMP) that would enable and inform CSEC establishment.

I suggest our staffs develop a joint five year CSEC PgMP to lay out a collaborative, integrated plan that we may discuss as a roadmap to proceeding. The Corps looks forward to your feedback on TAMU supporting this proposed path forward to form the basis of developing a partnership agreement for delivering CSEC value on the Gulf Coast.

Questions or concerns regarding this matter should be directed to Dr. Edmond Russo, Deputy District Engineer for Programs and Project Management, Galveston District, at (409) 766-3918.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald E. Jackson, Jr.", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Donald E. Jackson, Jr., P.E.  
Major General, U.S. Army  
Deputy Commanding General  
for Civil and Emergency Operations