# EXPANDING BENEFICIAL USE

Insights to the Galveston District Beneficial Use Program

Rhonda Gregg Hirsch
Operations Manager – BU

USACE Galveston District
Annual Dredging Meeting
05 November 2024



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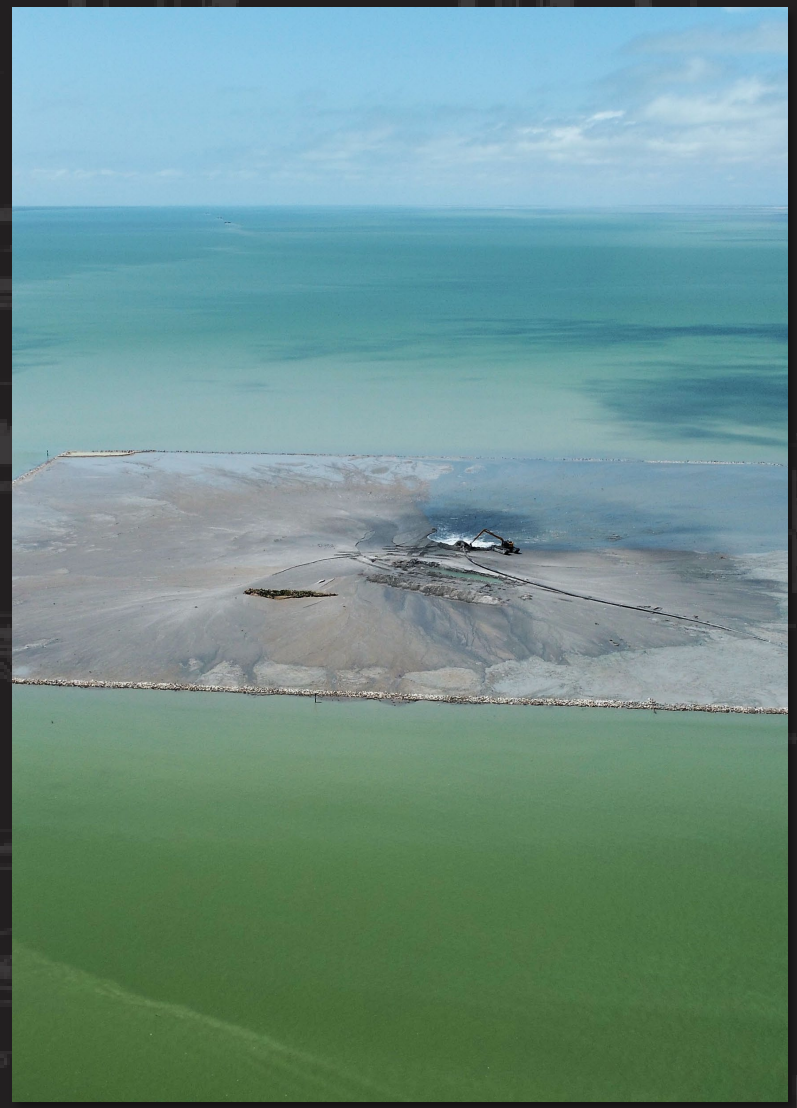
US Army Corps of Engineers®



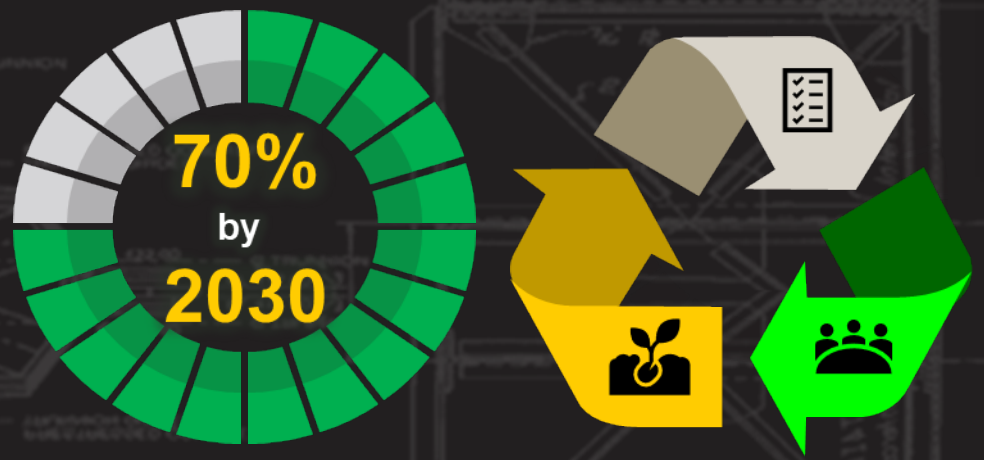
# USACE BUDM POLICY UPDATES LEADS TO LAUNCHING BENEFICIAL USE SECTION

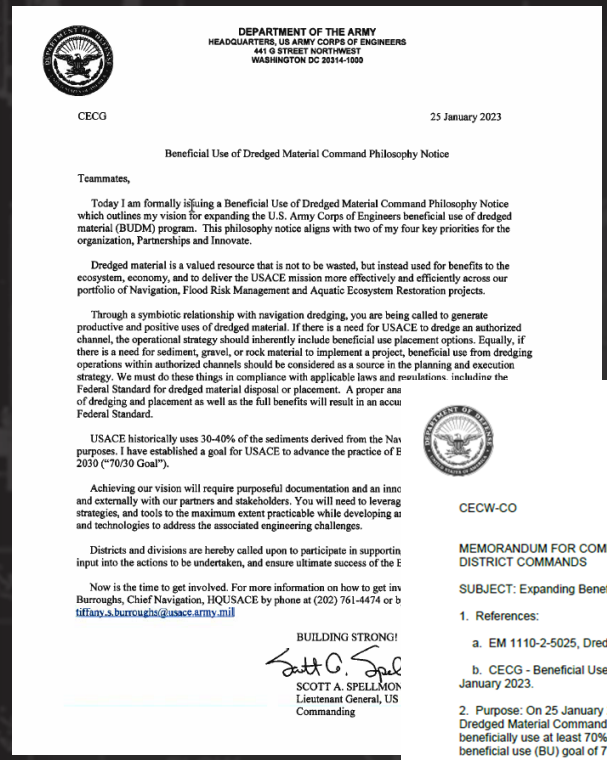
## USACE Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Command Philosophy Notice 25 JAN 2023

Increase the use of dredged material for beneficial to **70% by 2030**

## Memorandum: Expanding Beneficial Use of Dredge Material in the USACE 28 AUG 2023

Encourage robust innovation, planning, and categorization of dredged material for beneficial use



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
441 G STREET NORTHWEST
WASHINGTON DC 20314-1000

CECG 25 January 2023

Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Command Philosophy Notice

Teammates,

Today I am formally issuing a Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Command Philosophy Notice which outlines my vision for expanding the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers beneficial use of dredged material (BUDM) program. This philosophy notice aligns with two of my four key priorities for the organization, Partnerships and Innovate.

Dredged material is a valued resource that is not to be wasted, but instead used for benefits to the ecosystem, economy, and to deliver the USACE mission more effectively and efficiently across our portfolio of Navigation, Flood Risk Management and Aquatic Ecosystem Restoration projects.

Through a symbiotic relationship with navigation dredging, you are being called to generate productive and positive uses of dredged material. If there is a need for USACE to dredge an authorized channel, the operational strategy should inherently include beneficial use placement options. Equally, if there is a need for sediment, gravel, or rock material to implement a project, beneficial use from dredging operations within authorized channels should be considered as a source in the planning and execution strategy. We must do these things in compliance with applicable laws and regulations, including the Federal Standard for dredged material disposal or placement. A proper ana
of dredging and placement as well as the full benefits will result in an accu
Federal Standard.

USACE historically uses 30-40% of the sediments derived from the Nav
purposes. I have established a goal for USACE to advance the practice of E
2030 ("70/30 Goal").

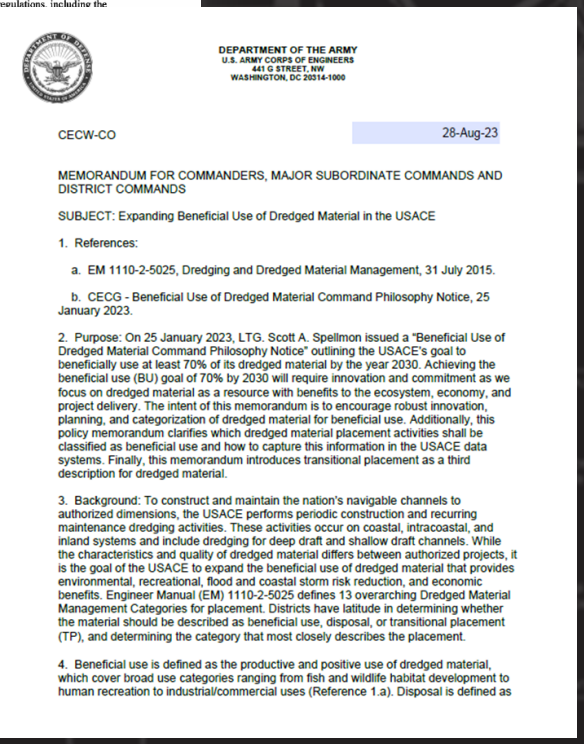
Achieving our vision will require purposeful documentation and an innc
and externally with our partners and stakeholders. You will need to leverag
strategies, and tools to the maximum extent practicable while developing a
and technologies to address the associated engineering challenges.

Districts and divisions are hereby called upon to participate in supportin
input into the actions to be undertaken, and ensure ultimate success of the E

Now is the time to get involved. For more information on how to get inv
Burroughs, Chief Navigation, HQUSACE by phone at (202) 761-4474 or b
tiffany.s.burroughs@usace.army.mil

BUILDING STRONG!

SCOTT A. SPELLMON
Lieutenant General, US
Commanding



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

CECW-CO 28-Aug-23

MEMORANDUM FOR COMMANDERS, MAJOR SUBORDINATE COMMANDS AND DISTRICT COMMANDS

SUBJECT: Expanding Beneficial Use of Dredged Material in the USACE

1. References:

a. EM 1110-2-5025, Dredging and Dredged Material Management, 31 July 2015.

b. CECG - Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Command Philosophy Notice, 25 January 2023.

2. Purpose: On 25 January 2023, LTG. Scott A. Spellmon issued a "Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Command Philosophy Notice" outlining the USACE's goal to beneficially use at least 70% of its dredged material by the year 2030. Achieving the beneficial use (BU) goal of 70% by 2030 will require innovation and commitment as we focus on dredged material as a resource with benefits to the ecosystem, economy, and project delivery. The intent of this memorandum is to encourage robust innovation, planning, and categorization of dredged material for beneficial use. Additionally, this policy memorandum clarifies which dredged material placement activities shall be classified as beneficial use and how to capture this information in the USACE data systems. Finally, this memorandum introduces transitional placement as a third description for dredged material.

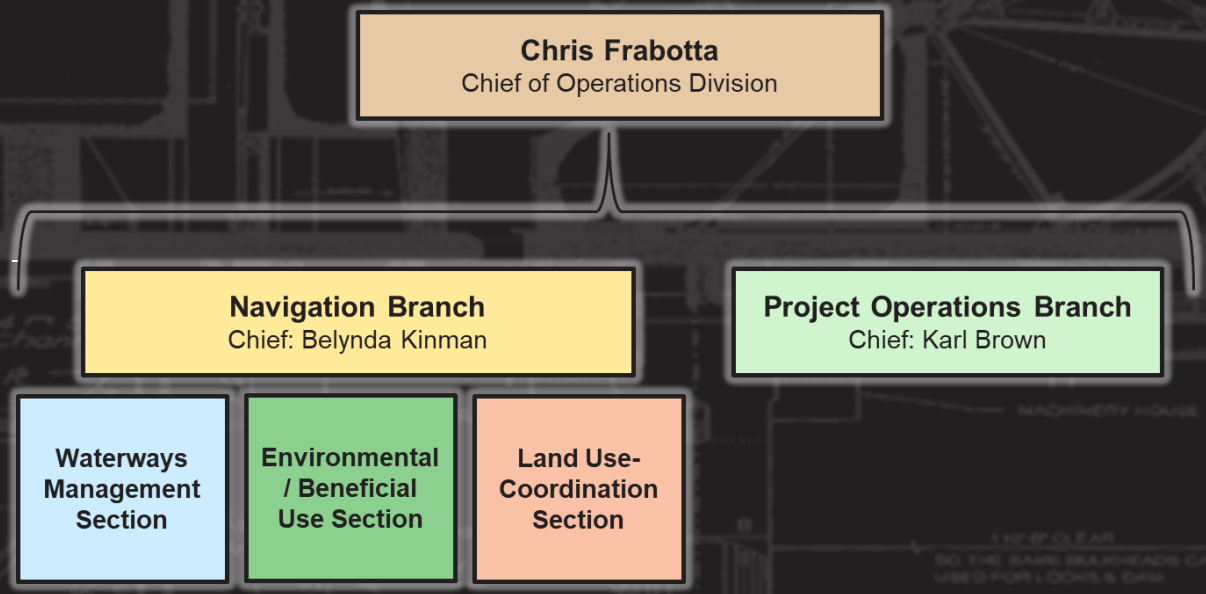
3. Background: To construct and maintain the nation's navigable channels to authorized dimensions, the USACE performs periodic construction and recurring maintenance dredging activities. These activities occur on coastal, intracoastal, and inland systems and include dredging for deep draft and shallow draft channels. While the characteristics and quality of dredged material differs between authorized projects, it is the goal of the USACE to expand the beneficial use of dredged material that provides environmental, recreational, flood and coastal storm risk reduction, and economic benefits. Engineer Manual (EM) 1110-2-5025 defines 13 overarching Dredged Material Management Categories for placement. Districts have latitude in determining whether the material should be described as beneficial use, disposal, or transitional placement (TP), and determining the category that most closely describes the placement.

4. Beneficial use is defined as the productive and positive use of dredged material, which cover broad use categories ranging from fish and wildlife habitat development to human recreation to industrial/commercial uses (Reference 1.a). Disposal is defined as

# GALVESTON DISTRICT UPDATES & CHANGES

## Galveston District Change:

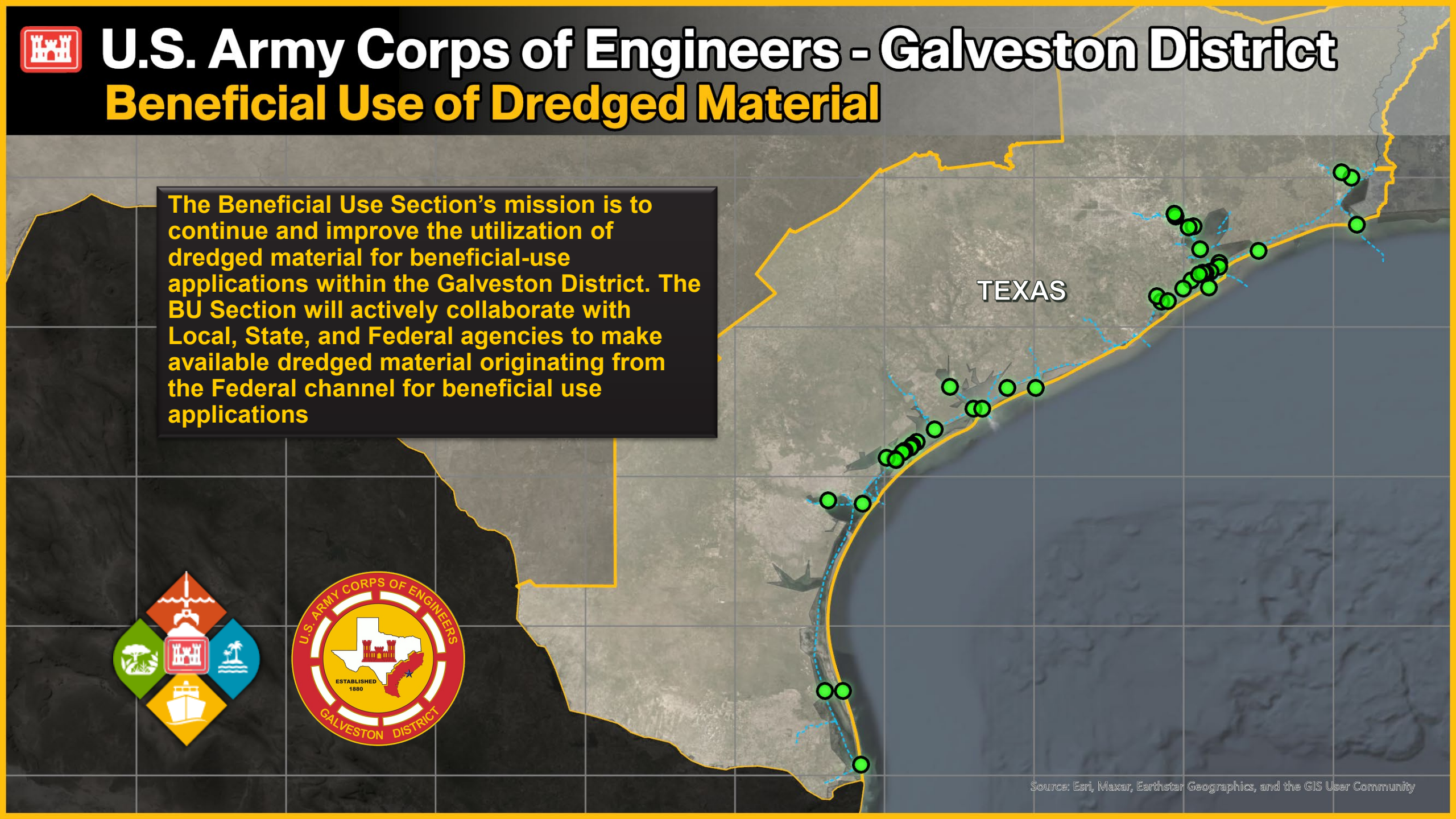
- **USACE SWG Operations Division Beneficial Use of Dredged Material Section | 2024**
  - Housed in the Operations Division – Navigation Branch
  - Dedicated Operations Manager for BU
  - Establishment of the BU Section is in alignment with the Chief's goal of utilizing 70% of dredged material in beneficial use applications by 2030.



# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Galveston District

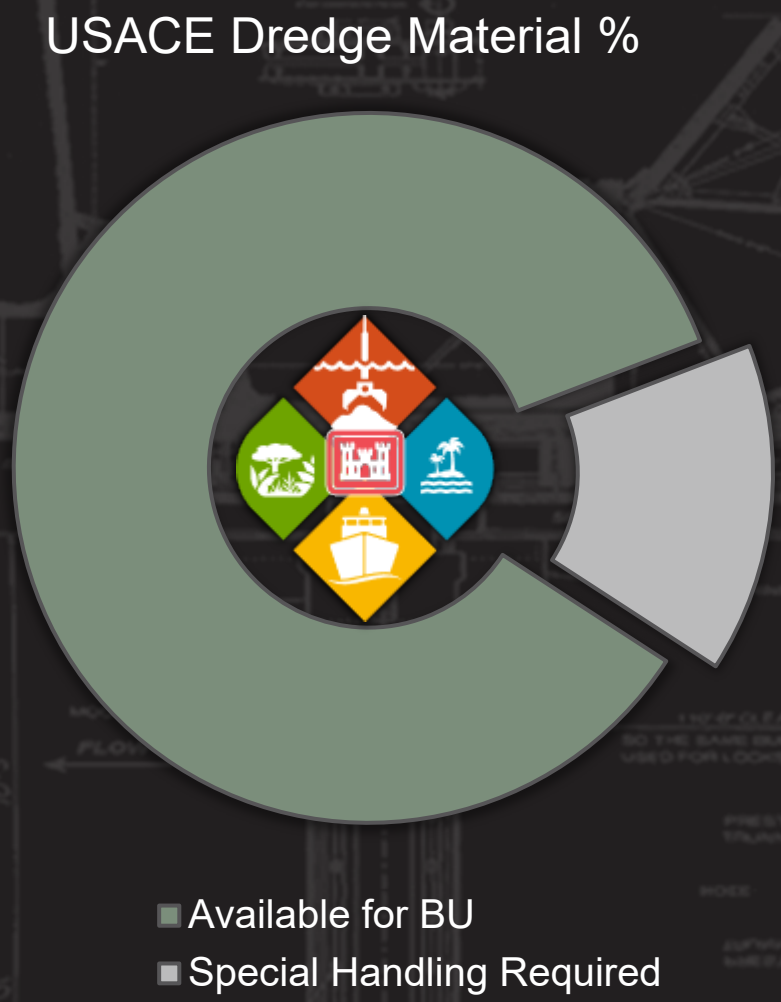
## Beneficial Use of Dredged Material

The Beneficial Use Section's mission is to continue and improve the utilization of dredged material for beneficial-use applications within the Galveston District. The BU Section will actively collaborate with Local, State, and Federal agencies to make available dredged material originating from the Federal channel for beneficial use applications



# USACE BENEFICIAL USE OF DREDGED MATERIAL

- USACE dredges over 200 million CY annually from federally constructed & maintained navigation channels (FY23 232.5 mCY)
- About 10-15% requires special handing; **the remaining 85% is available for Beneficial Use projects**
- The Galveston District dredges between 30-40 million CY annually (FY23 49.1 mCY)
- The district currently uses about 35-40% of our material beneficially (FY23 51%)



# USACE BUDM POLICY UPDATES

## Engineer Manual (EM) 1110-2-5025

## Dredging and Dredged Material Management 31 JUL 2015

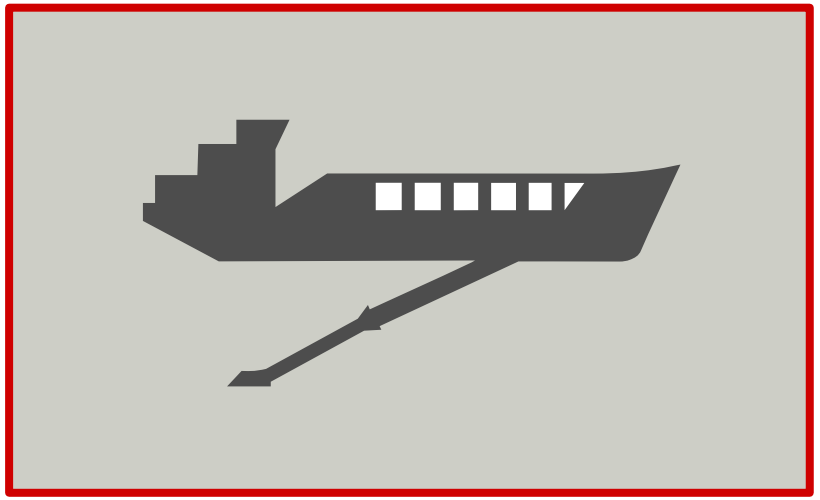
- Defines overarching Dredged Material Management Categories for dredge placement that are to be reported by the Districts in the Dredging Information System (DIS).
- Districts shall use their best professional judgement to determine if a placement is beneficial use, disposal, or transitional placement and select the category that most closely aligns with the intent of the placement.
- For each dredging project, multiple categories can be selected as needed and the corresponding quantity of material can be applied to the appropriate category.

## Engineer Manual (EM) 1110-2-5025

## Beneficial Use Classifications

- ✓ Agriculture, Horticulture, Forestry and Aquaculture
- ✓ Aquatic Habitats
- ✓ Beach/Shoreline Nourishment
- ✓ Construction and Industrial/Commercial Uses
- ✓ Island Habitats
- ✓ Multipurpose Uses and Other Land Use
- ✓ Open-Water Placement
- ✓ Parks and Recreation
- ✓ Waste Landfill, and Alternative Uses
- ✓ Upland Habitats
- ✓ Wetland Habitats

# THINK OUT OF THE BOX- INNOVATE!



# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Galveston District

## East Matagorda Bay & GIWW Island Reconstruction

Pelton Lake

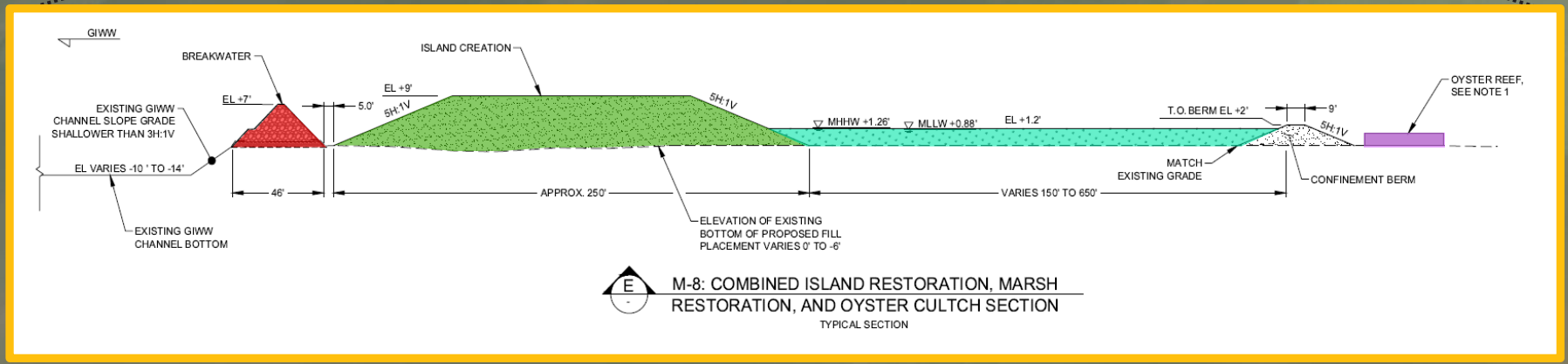
*Big Boggy National Wildlife Refuge*

430

428

GIWW

Matagorda Bay




**Island Features:**

- Length ~ 18,500 Ft (3.5 Mi)
- Uplands ~ 96 Ac
- Marsh ~250 Ac
- Oyster Reef ~ 19,500 Ft / ~14.5 Ac

# U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - Galveston District

## Mouth of the Colorado and Sargent Beach


Source: Esri, Maxar, Earthstar Geographics, and the GIS User Community, Texas Parks & Wildlife, CONANP, Esri, TomTom, Garmin,

# GUADALUPE RIVER DELTA RESTORATION-REFUGIO COUNTY


Exhibit Credit: DU, Anchor QEA, Sarosdy Consulting and TXDOT

- Unique partnership/private land ownership
- BU from Channel to Victoria approx. 600,000CY
- Phased approach (4 cells)
- Potentially 1140-acres of restoration
- Landowner obtains regulatory permit and temporary real estate easement for placement of material

# ANAHUAC NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE
# CHAMBERS COUNTY

- Anahuac National Wildlife Refuge- Robert Mueller Unit
- Partners: Ducks Unlimited, US FWS, TX GLO and Galveston District
- Wetland Restoration 340-acres; Wetland Enhance 200-acres
- Requires approximately 1.2MCY GIWW Maintenance Material
- Consideration for PA Material as an Option

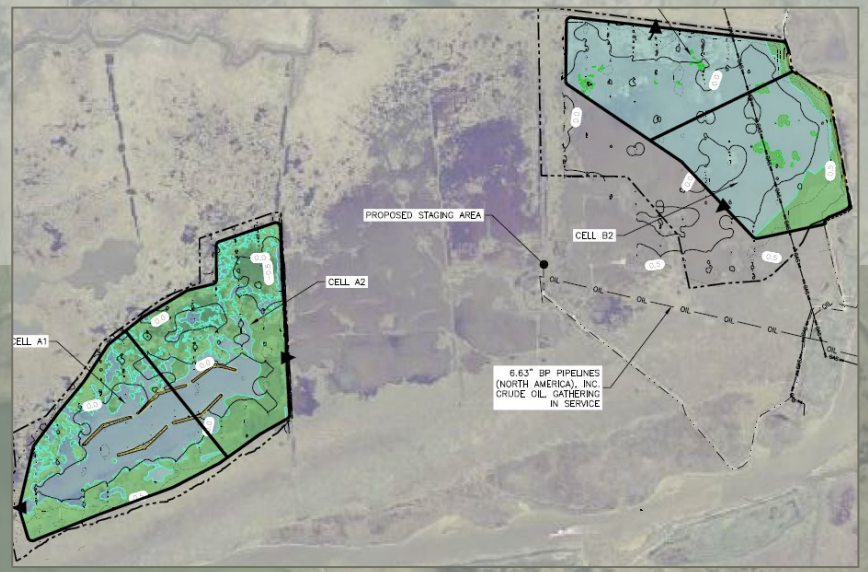



Exhibit credit: DU, USFWS, TX GLO

# CONTACT INFORMATION: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