



**U.S. Army Corps
of Engineers**

**Galveston District
Southwestern Division**

**Houston Ship Channel Expansion Channel
Improvement Project, Harris, Chambers,
and Galveston Counties, Texas**

**Draft Integrated Feasibility Report–Environmental
Impact Statement**

APPENDIX N

**NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT
COORDINATION**

AUGUST 2017

**Houston Ship Channel Expansion Channel Improvement Project,
Harris, Chambers, and Galveston Counties, Texas**

**Draft Integrated Feasibility Report –
Environmental Impact Statement**

APPENDIX N

NATIONAL HISTORIC ACT PRESERVATION COORDINATION:

AUGUST 2017

DRAFT

**PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT
REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT FOR
THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL EXPANSION CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT
IN
HARRIS, CHAMBERS, AND GALVESTON COUNTIES, TEXAS
AMONG
THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT,
THE TEXAS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER,
AND
PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District (USACE) has determined that the proposed improvements and maintenance of the Houston Ship Channel Expansion Channel Improvement Project (hereinafter, “undertaking”) may have an effect on historic properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) (hereinafter, “historic properties”) pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108) (NHPA), as amended, and its implementing regulations (36 CFR 800); and

WHEREAS, the Houston Ship Channel Expansion Channel Improvement Study was authorized under the standing authority of Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970, Public Law 91-611, as amended to review the feasibility of modifying or expanding existing structures to improve safety and reduce transportation costs along the Houston Ship Channel; and

WHEREAS, the Port of Houston Authority (PHA) is the non-Federal partner with the USACE for construction and maintenance of this undertaking, and is providing the necessary lands, easements, relocations and rights-of-way; and

WHEREAS, the Area of Potential Effect (APE) includes the footprint of all areas of direct impacts and a 1,500-foot buffer for indirect impacts to standing structures or buildings, as a result of new construction, improvements to existing facilities, and maintenance of existing facilities; and

WHEREAS, this Programmatic Agreement (PA) is being executed to describe the process the USACE and the PHA will utilize in the event that unanticipated discoveries are identified during construction and maintenance activities; and

WHEREAS, the USACE, the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the PHA have agreed that it is advisable to execute this PA for the purposes stated above in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6 and 36 CFR 800.14(b)(1)(ii); and

DRAFT

WHEREAS, the USACE has invited the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (Council) to participate and the Council has declined to enter into the Section 106 process; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 800.14(b), the USACE has notified the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, the Comanche Nation of Oklahoma, the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana, the Mescalero Apache Tribe, Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma, the Northern Arapaho Tribe, and the Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma of the development and execution of this PA.

NOW, THEREFORE, the USACE, the SHPO, and the PHA agree that the proposed undertaking shall be implemented and administered in accordance with the following stipulations in order to take into account the effects of the undertaking on historic properties and to satisfy the USACE's Section 106 responsibilities for all individual aspects of the undertaking.

STIPULATIONS

I. Identification, Evaluation, Effect Determination, and Resolution

- A. **Scope of Undertaking.** This PA shall be applicable to all new construction, improvements, and maintenance activities related to the proposed Houston Ship Channel Expansion Channel Improvement Project. The APE shall be established by the USACE in consultation with the SHPO and shall include all areas to be directly affected by new construction, construction staging and access areas, new or extensions of existing dredged material placement areas, ecological mitigation features, and project maintenance activities.
- B. **Qualifications and Standards.** The USACE shall ensure that all work conducted in conjunction with this PA is performed in a manner consistent with the Secretary of Interior's "Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation" (48 FR 44716-44740; September 23, 1983), as amended, or the Secretary of the Interior's "Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 68), as appropriate.
- C. **Definitions.** The definitions set forth in 36 CFR 800.16 are incorporated herein by reference and apply throughout this PA.
- D. **Identification of Historic Properties.** Prior to the initiation of construction, the USACE shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties located within the APE. These steps may include, but are not limited to, background research, consultation, oral history interviews, sample field investigations, and field survey. The level of effort for these activities shall be determined in consultation with the SHPO and any Native American Indian Tribe or Tribes (Tribes) that attach religious and cultural significance to identified properties. All draft reports of survey or site testing investigations shall be

DRAFT

submitted to the SHPO for review and comment. If the SHPO comments are not received by the USACE within thirty (30) days of receipt, the reports and their recommendations shall be considered adequate and the reports may be finalized. Comments received by the USACE from the SHPO or Tribes shall be addressed in the final reports, which shall be provided to all consulting parties. If no historic properties are identified in the APE, the USACE shall document this finding pursuant to 36 CFR 800.11(d), provide this documentation to the SHPO.

E. Evaluation of National Register Eligibility. If historic properties are identified within the APE, the USACE shall determine their eligibility for the NRHP in accordance with the process described in 36 CFR 800.4(c) and criteria established in 36 CFR 60. All draft reports of NRHP site testing or other NRHP investigations shall be submitted to the SHPO and Tribes for review and comment. If SHPO comments are not received by the USACE within 30 days of receipt, the reports or investigations and their recommendations shall be considered adequate and the reports may be finalized. Comments received by the USACE from the SHPO or Tribes shall be addressed in the final report, which shall be provided to all consulting parties. The determinations of significance shall be conducted in consultation with the SHPO and Tribes. Should the USACE and the SHPO agree that a property is or is not eligible, then such consensus shall be deemed conclusive for the purpose of this PA. Should the USACE and the SHPO not agree regarding the eligibility of a property, the USACE shall obtain a determination of eligibility from the Keeper of the National Register pursuant to 36 CFR 63. For historic properties found not eligible for the NRHP, no further protection or consideration of the site will be afforded for compliance purposes.

F. Assessment of Adverse Effects.

1. No Historic Properties Affected. The USACE shall make a reasonable and good faith effort to evaluate the effect of each undertaking on historic properties in the APE. The USACE may conclude that no historic properties are affected by an undertaking if no historic properties are present in the APE, or the undertaking will have no effect as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(i). This finding shall be documented in compliance with 36 CFR 800.11(d) and the documentation shall be provided to the SHPO and retained by the USACE for at least seven (7) years. The USACE shall provide information on the finding to the public upon request, consistent with the confidentiality requirements or 36 CFR 800.11(c).
2. Finding of No Adverse Effect. The USACE, in consultation with the SHPO, and Tribes shall apply the criteria of adverse effect to historic properties within the APE in accordance with 36 CFR 800.5. The USACE may propose a finding of no adverse effect if the undertaking's effects do not meet the criteria of 36 CFR 800.5(a)(1) or the undertaking is modified to avoid adverse effects in accordance with 36 CFR 68. The USACE shall provide to the SHPO documentation of this finding meeting the requirements of 36 CFR 800.11(e). The SHPO shall have 30 days in which to review the findings and provide a

DRAFT

written response to the USACE. The USACE may proceed upon receipt of written concurrence from the SHPO. Failure of the SHPO to respond within 30 calendar days of receipt of the finding shall be considered agreement with the finding. The USACE shall maintain a record of the finding and provide information on the finding to the public upon request, consistent with the confidentiality requirements of 36 CFR 800.11(c).

3. Resolution of Adverse Effect. If the USACE determines that the undertaking will have an adverse effect on historic properties as measured by criteria in 36 CFR 800.5(a)(1), the USACE shall consult with the SHPO and Tribes to resolve adverse effects in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6.
 - a) For historic properties that the USACE and the SHPO agree will be adversely affected, the USACE shall:
 - (1) Consult with the SHPO to identify other individuals or organizations to be invited to become consulting parties. If additional consulting parties are identified, the USACE shall provide them copies of documentation specified in 36 CFR 800.11(e) subject to confidentiality provisions of 36 CFR 800.11(c).
 - (2) Afford the public an opportunity to express their views on resolving adverse effects in a manner appropriate to the magnitude of the project and its likely effects on historic properties.
 - (3) Consult with the SHPO, Tribes, and any additional consulting parties to seek ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate adverse effects.
 - (4) Prepare an historic property plan (Plan) which describes mitigation measures the USACE proposes to resolve the undertaking's adverse effects and provide this Plan for review and comment to all consulting parties. All parties have 30 days in which to provide a written response to the USACE.
 - b) If the USACE and the SHPO fail to agree on how adverse effects will be resolved, the USACE shall request that the Council join the consultation and provide the Council and all consulting parties with documentation pursuant to 36 CFR 800.11(g).
 - c) If the Council agrees to join the consultation, the USACE shall proceed in accordance with 36 CFR 800.9.
 - d) If, after consulting to resolve adverse effects, the Council, the USACE, or the SHPO determines that further consultation will not be productive, then any party may terminate consultation in accordance with the notification requirements and processes prescribed in 36 CFR 800.7.

DRAFT

II. Post Review Changes and Discoveries

- A. Changes in the Undertaking. If construction on the undertaking has not commenced and the USACE determines that it will not conduct the undertaking as originally coordinated, the USACE shall reopen consultation pursuant to Stipulation I. D-F.

- B. Unanticipated Discoveries or Effects. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.13(b)(3), if historic properties are discovered or unanticipated effects on historic properties are found after construction on an undertaking has commenced, the USACE shall develop a treatment plan to resolve adverse effects and notify the SHPO and Tribes within 48 hours of the discovery. The notification shall include the USACE assessment of the NRHP eligibility of affected properties and proposed actions to resolve the adverse effects. Comments received from the SHPO and Tribes within 48 hours of the notification shall be taken into account by the USACE in carrying out the proposed treatment plan. The USACE may assume SHPO concurrence in its eligibility assessment and treatment plan unless otherwise notified by the SHPO within 48 hours of notification. USACE shall provide the SHPO and Tribes a report of the USACE actions when they are completed.

III. Curation and Disposition of Recovered Materials, Records, and Reports

- A. Curation. The USACE shall ensure that all archeological materials and associated records owned by the State of Texas or the PHA, which result from identification, evaluation, and treatment efforts conducted under this PA, are accessioned into a curation facility in accordance with the standards of 36 CFR 79, the Antiquities Code of Texas (Texas Natural Resource Code, Chapter 191), the Texas Administrative Code 13 TAC §29.5, and the Council of Texas Archeologists Guidelines and Standards for Curation, except as specified in Stipulation IV for human remains. The curation of items owned by the State of Texas or the PHA shall be maintained in perpetuity by the PHA. Archeological items and materials from privately owned lands shall be returned to their owners upon completion of analyses required for Section 106 compliance under this PA.

- B. Reports. The USACE shall provide copies of final technical reports of investigations and mitigation to the consulting parties and the SHPO, as well as additional copies for public distribution. All consulting parties shall withhold site location information or other data that may be of a confidential or sensitive nature pursuant to 36 CFR 800.11(c).

IV. Treatment of Native American Human Remains

- A. Prior Consultation. If the USACE's investigations, conducted pursuant to Stipulation I of this PA, indicate a high likelihood that Native American Indian human remains may be encountered, the USACE shall develop a treatment plan for these remains in consultation with the SHPO and Tribes. The USACE shall

DRAFT

ensure that Tribes indicating an interest in the undertaking are afforded a reasonable opportunity to identify concerns, provide advice on identification and evaluation, and participation in the resolution of adverse effects in compliance with the terms of this PA.

- B. Inadvertent Discovery. Immediately upon the inadvertent discovery of human remains during historic properties investigations or construction activities conducted pursuant to this PA, the USACE shall ensure that all ground disturbing activities cease in the vicinity of the human remains and any associated grave goods and that the site is secured from further disturbance or vandalism. The USACE shall be responsible for immediately notifying local law enforcement officials, and within 48 hours of the discovery, shall initiate consultation with the SHPO and Tribes to develop a plan for resolving the adverse effects.
- C. Dispute Resolution. If, during consultation conducted under paragraphs A and B of Stipulation IV, all consulting parties cannot agree upon a consensus plan for resolving adverse effects, the matter shall be referred to the Council for resolution in accordance with the procedures outlined in 36 CFR 800.9.

V. PA Amendments, Disputes and Termination

- A. Amendments. Any party to the PA may propose to the other parties that it be amended, whereupon the parties will consult in accordance with 36 CFR 800.6(c)(7) to consider such an amendment.
- B. Disputes. Disputes regarding the completion of the terms of this agreement shall be resolved by the signatories. If the signatories cannot agree regarding a dispute, any one of the signatories may request the participation of the Council in resolving the dispute in accordance with the procedures outlined in 36 CFR 800.9. The USACE shall forward to the Council and all consulting parties within fifteen (15) days of such a request all documentation relevant to the dispute, including the USACE's proposed resolution of the dispute. The Council will respond to the request within thirty (30) days of receiving all documentation. The USACE will take any recommendations or comments from the Council into account in resolving the dispute. In the event that the Council fails to respond to the request within thirty (30) days of receiving all documentation, the USACE may assume the Council's concurrence with its proposed resolution and proceed with resolving the dispute.
- C. Termination of PA. Any party to this PA may terminate it by providing a sixty (60) day notice to the other parties, provided that the parties will consult during the period prior to the termination to seek agreement on amendments or other actions that will avoid termination. In the event of termination of this PA the USACE shall comply with the provisions of 36 CFR 800, Subpart B.

DRAFT

VI. Term of this Agreement

- A. This PA remains in force for a period of ten (10) years from the date of its execution by all signatories, unless terminated pursuant to Stipulation V.C. Sixty (60) days prior to the conclusion of the ten (10) year period, the USACE shall notify all parties in writing of the end of the ten year period to determine if they have any objections to extending the term of this PA. If there are no objections received prior to expiration, the PA will continue to remain in force for a new ten (10) year period.

Execution of this PA and implementation of its terms evidences that the USACE has afforded the Council an opportunity to comment on the undertaking and its effects on historic properties, and that the USACE has taken into account those effects and fulfilled Section 106 responsibilities regarding the undertaking.

Colonel Lars N. Zetterstrom, District Engineer

Date

DRAFT

Signature Page for State Historic Preservation Officer

**PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT
REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT FOR
THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL EXPANSION CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT
IN
HARRIS, CHAMBERS, AND GALVESTON COUNTIES, TEXAS
AMONG
THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT,
THE TEXAS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER,
AND
PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY**

Mark Wolfe, Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

Date

DRAFT

Signature Page for Orange County, Texas

**PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT
REGARDING COMPLIANCE WITH SECTION 106 OF THE NATIONAL
HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT FOR
THE HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL EXPANSION CHANNEL IMPROVEMENT
PROJECT
IN
HARRIS, CHAMBERS, AND GALVESTON COUNTIES, TEXAS
AMONG
THE U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT,
THE TEXAS STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER,
AND
PORT OF HOUSTON AUTHORITY**

Signatory for, Port of Houston Authority

Date