



Public Notice

**U.S. Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Galveston District

Permit Application No: SWG-2025-00116

Date Issued: 29 May 2025

Comments

Due: 30 June 2025

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: To inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is not the entity proposing or performing the proposed work, nor has the Corps taken a position, in favor or against the proposed work.

AUTHORITY: This application will be reviewed pursuant to Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

APPLICANT:

Texas International Terminals
4800 Port Industrial Boulevard
Galveston, Texas 77554
POC: Bill Beavers
Telephone: 832-330-4489
Email: BBeavers@titerminals.com

AGENT:

Lloyd Engineering, Inc.
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Bellaire, Texas 77401
POC: Marisa Weber
Telephone: 832-426-4656
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LOCATION: The project site is located in Galveston Bay/Galveston Ship Channel at an area approximately 0.5 miles northwest of the intersection of Port Industrial Road and the Pelican Island Causeway, in Galveston, Galveston County, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Latitude: 29.3033° North; **Longitude:** 094.8323° West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to discharge dredged material into approximately 50 acres of Galveston Bay to construct a beneficial use dredge material placement area (BUDMPA) that will receive maintenance dredge material from the Texas International Terminal (TXIT) Berths (authorized by Department of the Army Permit SWG-2012-00602). The proposed BUDMPA consists of building low-profile containment levees approximately 4,315 feet long by 97 feet wide (7.5 acres), using 54,025 cubic yards (CY) of material dredged from the interior of the proposed BUDMPA, placed over geotextile fabric, and armored with 18 inches (8,220 CY) of rip rap placed at a 3:1 slope to provide erosion resistance. The low-profile containment levees will be constructed to a maximum height of +2.80 feet mean high water (MHW). Dredging of the interior of the BUDMPA will remove approximately 1,145,681 CY of material to a depth of -24 feet mean sea level and will be done with various methods, including barge-mounted excavators, pontoon excavators, and clamshell dredging. Any excess dredge material will be placed within the TXIT-owned Placement Area (PA) 5600. The interior of the BUDMPA will then be gradually filled with maintenance dredge material from the TXIT Berths until the ideal elevation (+2.3 feet MHW) is reached to allow for the establishment and growth of 41.5 acres of intertidal marsh habitat. Three cuts will then be made into the levee to create 1 acre of tidal circulation channels that allow for water and nutrient exchange and support fish and wildlife by providing a connection to the greater Galveston Bay system. The circulation channels will be deep enough to preclude the growth of vegetation in the channel and remain open water channels within the site. The circulation channels will also cross the site to create three separate wetland establishment planting areas.

The applicant stated that the main purpose of the project is to provide authorized confined placement location(s) within 5 miles of the TXIT Basin capable of receiving dredged material from the TXIT Basin via pipeline. This would allow for the utilization of smaller and more widely available dredging equipment, compared to offshore disposal, to create stability for future operations and navigation of vessels within the TXIT Basin.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by conducting an alternatives analysis to determine a feasibly alternative which minimized potential impacts, while fulfilling the project purpose and need. Localized increases in turbidity are anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed maintenance dredging and material placement activities, but industry standard best management practices will be utilized during dredging and placement activities to minimize temporary impacts to the maximum extent practicable and will be conducted in a manner consisted with the goals and policies of the Texas Coastal Management Program.

MITIGATION: The applicant has not proposed to mitigate for the proposed impacts because there will be no impacts to special aquatic sites or permanent impacts to aquatic resources.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is currently in a portion of Galveston Bay between the GIWW and the bay shore of Galveston Island. The project area is immediately to the east of the existing access channel that extends from the GIWW to the existing Newport Dock facility and south of federal open water placement area (PA) 50. According to the applicant, there are no special aquatic sites with the project area. The surrounding area on land is primarily commercial and industrial development. The natural depth of Galveston Bay within the project area is approximately – 8 to -10 feet MLLW, with an estimated mean high water level of +1.32 MLLW..

This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This project information has not been verified by the Corps. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 7 sheets.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Since permit assessment is a continuing process, this preliminary determination of EIS requirement will be changed if data or information brought forth in the coordination process is of a significant nature.

Our evaluation will also follow the guidelines published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the CWA.

OTHER AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS:

Consistency with the State of Texas Coastal Management Plan is required. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with Texas' approved Coastal Management Program goals and policies and will be conducted in a manner consistent with said program.

The proposed project will trigger review under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) will review this application under Section 401 of the CWA and in accordance with Title 30, Texas Administrative Code Section 279.1-13 to determine if the work would comply with State water quality standards. The applicant contacted the TCEQ and initiated the Section 401 CWA process, on 1 May 2025. If you have comments or questions on this proposed project's State water quality certification, please contact 401certs@tceq.texas.gov.

Pursuant to 33 USC 408, the proposed project will require Section 408 coordination and review. This is a requirement for activities that seek permission, to temporarily or permanently, alter, occupy, or use a federally authorized United States Army Corps of Engineers civil works project. Changes to the proposed project, from the Section 408 process, may warrant additional coordination.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The staff archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties:

The state tracts proposed for work under this permit are not included in the Texas Historical Commission's list of Sensitive state tracts. Additionally, the scope and magnitude of the project is so minimal that a marine archeological investigation is not needed.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary indications are that no known threatened and/or endangered species or their critical habitat will be affected by the proposed work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on Essential Fish Habitat or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW FACTORS: This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-332, the Regulatory Programs of the Corps, and other pertinent laws, regulations and executive orders. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered: among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment and/or an EIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts upon which a decision by the Corps may be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

PUBLIC HEARING: The purpose of a public hearing is to solicit additional information to assist in the evaluation of the proposed project. Prior to the close of the comment period, any person may make a written request for a public hearing, setting forth the particular reasons for the request. The District Engineer will determine if the reasons identified for holding a public hearing are sufficient to warrant that a public hearing be held. If a public hearing is warranted, all known interested persons will be notified of the time, date, and location.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: All comments pertaining to this public notice must reach this office on or before **30 June 2025**. Extensions of the comment period may be granted for valid reasons provided a written request is received by the limiting date. **If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections.** Comments and requests for additional information should reference our file number, **SWG-2025-00116**, and should be submitted through the RRS system or the physical address listed below: <https://rrs.usace.army.mil/rrs/public-notice> OR

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