



# Public Notice

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

**Galveston District**

Permit Application No: SWG-2001-01549

Date Issued: 13 August 2019

Comments

Due: 13 September 2019

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**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT  
AND  
TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY**

**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:** Galveston County  
722 Moody  
Galveston, Texas 77550

POC: Michael Shannon  
Telephone: 409-770-5453

**AGENT:** HNTB  
9601 McAllister Freeway, Suite 1001  
San Antonio, Texas 78216

POC: Mark Bedgood  
Telephone: 512-541-1944  
Email: mbedgood@HNTB.com

**LOCATION:** The project site is located in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, at Yacht Basin Road, in Gilchrist, Galveston County, Texas. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map titled: Galveston, Texas.

**LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):**

**Latitude:** 29.514948° North;      **Longitude:** 094.512272° West

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION:** The applicant proposes to impact 0.26 acres of waters of the United States to facilitate the construction of a bulkhead, placement of rip rap around an existing jetty and shoreline, and remove and replace an existing boat ramp and wood dock in the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. The amount of fill material that is proposed to be discharge for the requested boat dock and ramp facility improvements is listed below:

- 696 cubic yards of rip rap around the existing jetty and shoreline
- 18 cubic yards of material for the construction of the bulkhead
- 0.16 cubic yards for the installation of two wood docks
- 3 cubic yards of material for the removal of an existing dock
- 53 cubic yards of concrete for the construction of a boat ramp

The purpose of the proposed project is to repair and renovate an existing dock and boat ramp facility that has been damaged from past weather events. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 9 sheets.

**AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION:** The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by having the contractor mobilize the excavation and demolition equipment and prepare to clear the site of the existing elements. The applicant claims that the contractor's heavy equipment will be land borne, although a barge crane and work floats might be utilized for better waterfront access. To construct the boat ramp, the applicant states that the contractor will first create a small dam using sandbags within the boat basin, which will facilitate a dry working condition that will allow the installation of the toe of the ramp below mean low lower water.

**MITIGATION:** The applicant does not have a mitigation plan for the proposed impacts to waters and wetlands of the United States.

**CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS:** The project site is located in a residential area along the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway with an existing boat dock, pier, boat ramp facility, and a jetty. West of the proposed project site is undeveloped wetland and upland areas, and east of the project site is a residential area. Estuarine and marine wetlands are located within the project site and herbaceous wetlands are in vicinity of the project site.

**NOTES:** This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This project information has not been verified by the Corps. As of the date of this public notice, the Corps has received but not yet verified the wetland delineation. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 9 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.

This project incorporates the requirements necessary to comply with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality's (TCEQ) Tier I project criteria. Tier I projects are those which result in a direct impact of three acres or less of waters of the state or 1,500 linear feet of streams (or a combination of the two is below the threshold) for which the applicant has incorporated best management practices and other provisions designed to safeguard water quality. The Corps has received a completed checklist and signed statement fulfilling Tier I criteria for the project. Accordingly, a request for 401 certification is not necessary and there will be no additional TCEQ review.

**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 permit area has been so extensively impacted by construction of the boat ramp and associated facilities that there is no potential for historic properties to exist within the permit area. Therefore, the proposed project has no potential to effect historic properties.

**THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES:** Threatened and/or endangered species or their critical habitat may be affected by the proposed work. Consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and/or the National Marine Fisheries Service will be initiated to assess the effect on endangered species.

**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 **13 September 2019**. 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-2001-01549**, and should be submitted to:

Central Unit  
Regulatory Division, CESWG-RDE  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
P.O. Box 1229  
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229  
409-766-3869 Phone  
409-766-3931 Fax  
swg\_public\_notice@usace.army.mil

DISTRICT ENGINEER  
GALVESTON DISTRICT  
CORPS OF ENGINEERS