



Public Notice

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

Galveston District

Permit Application No: SWG-2011-00159

Date Issued: 7 November 2017

Comments

Due: 11 December 2017

**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.

APPLICANT: City of Corpus Christi
P.O. Box 9277
Corpus Christi, Texas 78469-9277
Telephone 361-826-3851
POC: Mr. Jeff Edmonds

AGENT: HDR Engineering, Inc.
555 North Carancahua, Suite 1600
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401-0849
Telephone: 504-218-1229
POC: Mr. Kyle Clark

LOCATION: The project is located in Packery Channel from the Gulf end of the jetties to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway and the Gulf beach between Packery Channel and Viento Del Mar. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map entitled: Port Aransas, Texas and Estes, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

East dredging Terminus: Latitude 27.61377 North; Longitude 97.19818 West

West dredging Terminus: Latitude 27.63557 North; Longitude 97.23864 West

Placement Area (Center point): Latitude 27.60066 North; Longitude 97.21026 West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: This Public Notice is for a re-issuance of an existing permit originally issued on July 19, 2011. The applicant proposes a 10-year maintenance dredging plan of approximately 18,500 linear feet (3.5 miles) of the Packery Channel. The dredging would be to a depth of -14 feet NAVD 88 (-13.5 feet MLLW) plus 2 feet allowable over depth within the outer reach of the 122-foot-wide channel section, and -7 feet NAVD 88 (-7.2 feet MLLW) plus 1 foot allowable over depth within the outer reach of the 80-foot-wide channel section. No changes from the original Federal project dimensions are proposed. Maintenance dredging would be conducted using hydraulic and/or mechanical methods from barges, and approximately 400,000 cubic yards of material will be dredged. Suitable beach-quality sand from the dredging activities will be placed along the Gulf beach between Packery Channel and Viento Del Mar, approximately 7,600 feet in length and a total of 90 acres. Nourishment of the beach would measure approximately 300 feet wide seaward of the existing seawall. If a cutterhead dredge is used, the dredge material will be transported to the Gulf beach through a temporary pipeline. If mechanical dredging is used, material will be placed in scows (barge vessels) and then the scows will be anchored offshore of the Gulf beach in deep water. The location of the scows offshore of the Gulf beach is unknown at this time. The material will then be transported from the scows onto the beach using a temporary pump-out station and pipeline. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 8 sheets.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized any environmental impacts by avoiding additional impacts to waters of the United States outside the originally authorized channel dimensions and beach nourishment area.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site, both in Packery Channel and on the Gulf beach, experiences high levels of disturbance from recreation use. Furthermore, the Packery Channel is a navigable waterway that is currently experiencing shoaling in areas. No seagrass beds or other special aquatic sites are located within 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. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 8 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 Clean Water Act (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 would result in a direct impact of greater than three acres of waters of the state or 1500 linear feet of streams (or a combination of the two is above the threshold), and as such would not fulfill Tier I criteria for the project. Therefore, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) certification is required. Concurrent with Corps processing of this application, the TCEQ is reviewing 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. By virtue of an agreement between the Corps and the TCEQ, this public notice is also issued for the purpose of advising all known interested persons that there is pending before the TCEQ a decision on water quality certification under such act. Any comments concerning this application may be submitted to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, 401 Coordinator, MSC-150, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. The public comment period extends 30 days from the date of publication of this notice. A copy of the public notice with a description of work is made available for review in the TCEQ's Austin office. The complete application may be reviewed in the Corps office listed in this public notice. The TCEQ may conduct a public meeting to consider all comments concerning water quality if requested in writing. A request for a public meeting must contain the following information: the name, mailing address, application number, or other recognizable reference to the application; a brief description of the interest of the requester, or of persons represented by the requester; and a brief description of how the application, if granted, would adversely affect such interest.

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 proposed work and/or structures are of such limited nature and scope that little likelihood exists for the proposed project to impinge upon a historic property, even if present within the affected area.

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 of Engineers, 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 of Engineers 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 of Engineers 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 Environmental Impact Statement 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 of Engineers 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 **11 December 2017**. 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-2011-00159**, and should be submitted to:

Corpus Christi Field Office
Regulatory Division, CESWG-RD-CC
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
5151 Flynn Parkway, Suite 306
Corpus Christi, Texas 78411-4318
361-814-5847 Phone
swg_public_notice@usace.army.mil

DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS