



**DATE:** May 15, 2018

**TO:** Port Commission

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Chief of Channel Development

**Approve a Master Services Agreement and Service Order No. 1 with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. for a Feasibility Study and Environmental Impact Statement for a 75-foot Deepening Project for the Corpus Christi Ship Channel System.**

**SUMMARY:** Due to the significantly increased market interest in Very Large Crude Carrier facilities in Texas to handle Permian and Eagle Ford crude slates, Staff requests approval of the attached Master Services Agreement with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. and approval of Service Order No. 1 to prepare a Feasibility Study, Environmental Impact Statement, and ultimately receiving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) requisite permits for a 75-foot deepening project in order to achieve the only onshore VLCC compliant facilities in the U.S. Gulf.

**BACKGROUND:** The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will soon commence physical construction of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel Improvement Project to widen and deepen the Corpus Christi Ship Channel from -47 feet to -54 feet. However, the -54-foot depth will not be sufficient to allow for fully loaded Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCC) to access the Port without lightering. With increasing crude oil production in the Permian Basin and continued investments in new pipelines, docks, tanks, and facilities to transport the crude, the Port of Corpus Christi has emerged as the prime destination for crude export, and there has been a push from industry to further deepen the channel.

In order for PCCA to deepen the channel to -75 feet, a Feasibility Study and Environmental Assessment up to the level of an Environmental Impact Statement is required to be submitted to the USACE for their issuance of the requisite permit.



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**LIST OF SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:**

Master Services Agreement  
Service Order No. 1  
Map Exhibit