

8.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT, REVIEW, AND CONSULTATION

Review and consultation of this document was performed by the USACE, PCCA, and RACT members.

8.1 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT PROGRAM

The USACE and PCCA involved the public through outreach programs such as newsletters, public meetings, special interest group meetings, and other outreach throughout the history of this project. A proactive approach was taken to inform and involve the public, resource agencies, industry, local government, and other interested parties about the project and to identify any concerns from the aforementioned groups. Appendix D contains only a portion of the official record of communication with the public. The most pertinent documents were chosen to include in Appendix D.

In 1990, the U.S. Congress authorized the USACE to begin a reconnaissance study to investigate deepening the CCSC. Public involvement began during the reconnaissance phase on March 30, 1994, when the USACE held a public workshop to describe the study and solicit public input. In September 1994, the USACE completed the reconnaissance study. The study concluded that the benefits of channel improvements would be 2.5 times greater than the project cost. Therefore, the recommendation was made to proceed into the feasibility phase. Nine public meetings followed to update the public about the progression of the project and to solicit input. A series of newsletters was also sent to approximately 1,300 people or organizations in the area, including those who attended meetings or expressed an interest in the project or could potentially be interested in the project. In addition to the general public meetings, special-interest group meetings were also held. Other various forms of outreach utilized during this project included early regulatory agency coordination, RACT/Workgroup meetings, individual contacts, a toll-free 800 number, Spanish voice mailbox, web site posting, press releases, and comment forms.

8.2 REQUIRED COORDINATION

The Draft Feasibility Report and DEIS have been circulated to all known Federal, State, and local agencies. Interested organizations and individuals were sent notice of availability.

8.3 STATEMENT RECIPIENTS

The following list includes those who were sent a copy of these documents along with a request to review and provide comments on the documents:

Texas General Land Office
Tom Calnan
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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6
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City of Portland
Mayor Joe Burke
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Texas Waterway Operators Association
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Martin Gas Marine, Inc.
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Gulf Intracoastal Canal Association
Raymond Butler, Executive Director
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Texas Natural Resources Conservation Commission
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Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program
Leo Trevino
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Nueces County Judge
Judge Richard Borchard
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Nueces River Authority, Coastal Bend Division
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State Representative
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8.4 PUBLIC VIEWS AND RESPONSES

Public views and concerns expressed during this study have been considered during the preparation of this FEIS. The views and concerns were used to develop planning objectives, identify significant resources, evaluate impacts of various alternatives, identify potential beneficial uses, and identify a plan that is socially and environmentally acceptable. Important concerns expressed included the beneficial use of dredged material and recreational opportunities.

Development of alternatives is explained in the Feasibility Report. The recommended plan meets the expressed objectives, views, and concerns of the resource agencies and public. Comment letters on the DEIS, and responses to those comments, are included in Appendix D.

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