



Public Notice

U.S. Army Corps Of Engineers	Permit Application No: _____	SWG-2019-00067
	Date Issued: _____	1 August 2019
	Comments _____	
Galveston District	Due: _____	30 August 2019

**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 (RHA), Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA), and Section 103 of the Marine Protection, Research and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 (MPRSA).

APPLICANT: Port of Corpus Christi Authority (PCCA)
222 Power Street
Corpus Christi, Texas 78401
POC: Sarah Garza
Telephone: (361) 885-6163
Email: sarah@pocca.com

AGENT: AECOM
5444 Westheimer Road, Suite 400
Houston, Texas 77056
POC: Carl Sepulveda
Telephone: (713) 278-4620
Email: carl.sepulveda@aecom.com

LOCATION: The proposed Channel Deepening Project (CDP) is located within the existing channel bottom of the Corpus Christi Ship Channel (CCSC) starting at station 110+00 near the southeast side of Harbor Island, traversing easterly through the Aransas Pass, and extending beyond the currently authorized terminus Station -330+00 an additional 29,000 feet terminating out into the Gulf of Mexico at the proposed new Terminus Station -620+00, an approximate distance of 13.8 miles, in Port Aransas, Nueces County, Texas. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map entitled: Port Aransas, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Latitude: 27.824019 North; Longitude: 97.054338 West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant (PCCA) is proposing to deepen a portion of the CCSC to depths that vary from -75 to -77 feet mean lower low water (MLLW), plus 2 feet allowable over dredge, plus 2 feet advanced maintenance dredging, which ultimately totals -79 to -81 feet MLLW. The proposed CDP of the CCSC is approximately 1,778 acres and will create approximately 46 million cubic yards (MCY) of new work dredged material (17.1 MCY of clay and 29.2 MCY of sand). The proposed CDP is needed to accommodate transit of fully laden very large crude carriers (VLCCs) that draft approximately 70 feet. The proposed project does not include widening the channel; however, some minor incidental widening of the channel slopes is expected to meet side slope requirements and to maintain the stability of the channel. The applicant is proposing to dispose of the material in several ways. Approximately 13.8 MCY of the clay portion of the new work dredged material located in the offshore reaches between Stations -620+00 to -72+50 would be placed at CCSC Improvement Project (CCSCIP) New Work (NW) Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS). The clay portion of new work dredged material from Stations -72+50 to Station 110+00 would be used beneficially where possible to create perimeter dikes.

Regulated Activities for the proposed CDP consists of:

1. Activities subject to Section 10 of the RHA:
 - a. Deepening a portion of the CCSC between Station 110+00 to the proposed extension Station -620+00 by conducting “new work” dredging activities in navigable waters of the US:
 - i. Stations 110+00 to -72+00: -79 feet MLLW (-75 feet MLLW plus two feet of advanced maintenance and two feet of allowable overdredge).
 - ii. Stations -72+00 to -330+00: -81 feet MLLW (-77 feet MLLW plus two feet of advanced maintenance and two feet of allowable overdredge).
 - iii. Stations -330+00 to Station -620+00: This section represents the expansion of the CCSC an additional 29,000 feet from Station -330+00. This proposed expansion would be dredged to -81 MLLW (-77 feet MLLW plus two feet of advanced maintenance and two feet of allowable overdredge) to reach the -80-foot MLLW bathymetric contour in the Gulf of Mexico.
 - iv. The existing Inner Basin at Harbor Island will be expanded as necessary to allow VLCC turning. This modification will also include a flare transition from the CCSC within Aransas Pass to meet the turning basin expansion.
2. Activities subject to Section 404 of the CWA:
 - a. The proposed placement of new work dredged material into waters of the US for Beneficial Use (BU) sites located in and around Corpus Christi and Redfish Bays which also includes the Redfish Bay State Scientific Research Area.
 - b. The dredged material may also be used for dune restoration on San Jose Island (SJI).
 - c. Proposed feeder berms (B1 – B9) for beach restoration along SJI and Mustang Island are proposed.

3. Activities subject to Section 103 of the MPRSA:
 - a. Transportation of new work dredged material to the CCSCIP NW ODMDS.

The proposed total estimated adverse impact to special aquatic sites, specifically wetlands, resulting from the placement of dredged material totals 185.9 acres. The proposed adverse impacts to submerged aquatic vegetation total 58.5 acres. As of the date of this Public Notice, the Corps has not received special aquatic site delineations for wetlands or surveys for submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV).

The following tables represent the proposed placement options and its impacts to waters of the US including aquatic sites from the proposed CDP:

Table 1: Proposed Restoration Sites to for the Placement of the Proposed BU Sites			
Placement Option	Description	Placement Capacity (CY)	Proposed Restoration
M3	Estuarine/aquatic habitat creation adjacent to Pelican Island	3,798,000	This option will convert featureless bay bottom to approximately 300 acres of estuarine/aquatic habitat.
M4	Restoring historic land and marsh loss at Dagger Island	867,000	This option will restore eroding marsh habitat for native shorebirds and coastal wildlife. Design of project elements will be coordinated to support TPWD's existing permitted project.
PA9-S	Upland Placement Site Expansion behind PA9	9,000,000	This option does not restore aquatic habitat; it will convert featureless bay bottom to upland.
M10	Estuarine/aquatic habitat creation adjacent to PA10	10,933,600	This option will convert featureless bay bottom to approximately 770 acres of estuarine/aquatic habitat.
PA6	5 foot levee raise and fill	1,796,400	This option does not create any environmental benefit.
SS1	Restoring eroded and washed out shoreline	4,800,000	This option restores an eroded shoreline landmass and provides protection to Harbor Island Seagrass area.
SS2	Restore shoreline washouts along Port Aransas Nature Preserve as a result of Hurricane Harvey	669,700	Shoreline restoration that fills in the washouts caused by Hurricane Harvey that protects Piping Plover critical sand flat habitat.
PA4	Reestablish eroded shoreline and land loss in front of PA4	3,020,000	This option provides protection to Harbor Island Seagrass area.
HI-E	Bluff and Shoreline restoration with site fill	1,825,000	This option restores an eroding bluff and shoreline to its historic profile.
SJI	Dune and beach restoration San Jose Island	4,000,000	This option restores several miles of beach profile that was washed away as a result of Hurricane Harvey.
NW ODMDS	Place on New Work ODMDS (Homeport)	13,800,000	This option does not create any environmental benefit.

B1-B9	Feeder berms offshore of SJI and Mustang Island	8,100,000	This option will nourish beach shoreline by natural sediment transport processes.
MI	Beach Nourishment for Gulf side of Mustang Island	2,000,000	This option will nourish beach shoreline by direct sediment placement.
Scenarios for new work placement capacity provided and needed.		64,609,700	Total Capacity Provided
		60,609,700	Total capacity less SJI (should that option become unavailable)
		46,283,590	Total NW placement capacity required for Channel Preferred Alternative – Base Option
		14,326,110	Additional Capacity less SJI (should that option become unavailable)

Table 2: Impacts to Aquatic Sites Resulting from the Proposed Placement of Dredged Material

Placement Option	Total Site Acres	Acres	Predominant Type	Comment	Impact Review Adjust	Est Adverse Impact
B1	80.0	-	-	-	-	-
B2	80.5	-	-	-	-	-
B3	83.8	-	-	-	-	-
B4	83.8	-	-	-	-	-
B5	83.8	-	-	-	-	-
B6	83.8	-	-	-	-	-
B7	124.0	-	-	-	-	-
B8	124.0	-	-	-	-	-
B9	124.0	-	-	-	-	-
HI-E	138.7	36.2	Estuarine and Marine Wetland	Features appear to have eroded away	-7.7	28.6
M3	332.6	-	-	-	-	-
M4	702.6	68.9	Estuarine and Marine Wetland	Interior wetlands that would be avoided, and exterior would be integrated with through placement	-68.9	0.0
PA9-S	329.3	-	-	-	-	-
M10	769.9	-	-	-	-	-
MI	362.2	211.7	Estuarine and Marine Wetland	Consists entirely of unconsolidated shoreline to be restored	-211.7	0.0
NW ODMDS	1180.4	-	-	-	-	-
PA4	163.1	51.5	Freshwater Emergent Wetland	Identified within active PA or Feature appear to have eroded away	-51.5	0.0
PA6	269.8	143.0	Lake	Identified within active PA. Feature appears associated with earlier filling of this PA and is no longer apparent in current aerials.	-143.0	0.0
SJI	593.0	279.4	Estuarine and Marine Wetland	Consists entirely of shoreline to be restored	-279.4	0.0

SS1	307.6	157.3	Estuarine and Marine Wetland	Would be replaced by created upland to protect seagrass area behind it from future loss	0.0	157.3
SS2	94.8	36.5	Estuarine and Marine Wetland	Unconsolidated shoreline that eroded away during Harvey. Placement would restore protective shoreline for interior sand flats.	-36.5	0.0
TOTALS	6111.7	984.5				185.9

**Table 3: Impacts to Submerged Aquatic Vegetation
Resulting from the Proposed Placement of Dredged Material**

Placement Option	Total Site Acres	Acres	Comment	Impact Review Adjust	Est Adverse Impact	Open Water
B1	80.0	-	-	-	-	80.0
B2	80.5	-	-	-	-	80.5
B3	83.8	-	-	-	-	83.8
B4	83.8	-	-	-	-	83.8
B5	83.8	-	-	-	-	83.8
B6	83.8	-	-	-	-	83.8
B7	124.0	-	-	-	-	124.0
B8	124.0	-	-	-	-	124.0
B9	124.0	-	-	-	-	124.0
HI-E	138.7	0.0	-	0.0	0.0	3.3
M3	332.6	17.1	Restoration of larger area to create marsh. Elevation could be suitable for seagrass establishment too.	-9.5	7.6	332.6
M4	702.6	571.5	Interior acreage would not be impacted except at fringes. BU feature would protect this from further loss.	-571.5	0.0	546.3
PA9-S	329.3	3.1	Restoration of larger area to create uplands. In recent years aerials do not show evidence of seagrass stands. If in existence, seagrass is sparse and tenuous, most likely because of focused wave energy in the area.	-3.1	0.0	308.8
M10	769.9	2.5	Restoration of larger area to create marsh. Elevation could be suitable for seagrass establishment too. In recent years aerials do not show evidence of seagrass stands. If in existence, seagrass is sparse and tenuous, most likely because of focused wave energy in the area.	-2.5	0.0	752.9
MI	362.2	-	-	-	-	262.1
NW ODMDS	1180.4	-	-	-	-	1180.4
PA4	163.1	0.0	Minor fringe impact. BU would protect much larger seagrass area from future losses.	0.0	0.0	3.3
PA6	269.8	-	-	-	-	0.8

SJI	593.0	-	-	-	-	334.3
SS1	307.6	94.1	Restoration of shoreline to bolster against future erosion of much larger area of seagrass behind feature. Due to shifting uplands and erosion over recent years much of the seagrass no longer appears to be visible within aeriels.	-43.3	50.8	81.4
SS2	94.8	688.3		-	-	-
TOTALS	6111.7				58.5	4,673.9

Table 4: Impacts Within the Channel to Waters of the US Resulting from the Proposed Dredging						
Segment	Channel Acres			Channel Impact		
	Toe to Toe	Total Including Side Slope	Side Slope Acreage	Upland Acreage	Seagrass Acreage	WOUS (Deepwater)
Stations -620+00 to -330+00	455.4	588.8	133.4		-	588.8
Stations -330+00 to -210+00	146.9	260	113.1	-	-	260
Stations -210+00 to 100+00	518.9	734.8	215.9	2.00	0.11	732.69
Turning Basin and Flare Stations 19+48.10 to 38+16.42	56.68	82.42	25.74	-	-	82.42

ODMDS LOCATIONS AND DESIGNATIONS: The applicant is proposing to use an existing authorized Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) regulated under Section 103 of the MPRSA. Pursuant to the requirements to initiate a public notice listed in 33 CFR 325.3(a)(17), for Section 103 activities:

CCSC ODMDS No. 1 is located approximately 1.5 miles offshore and about 1,000 feet southwest of the centerline of the Outer Bar Channel. The site is rectangular in shape with corner coordinates located at:

ODMDS No.1	Latitude	Longitude
North Corner	27°49'11.0994"N	97°01'09.9546"W
East Corner	27°48'43.1022"N	97°00'21.9522"W
South Corner	27°48'07.1064"N	97°00'48.9528"W
West Corner	27°48'34.1136"N	97°01'36.9654"W

CCSC NW ODMDS is located approximately 3.4 miles offshore and about 6,200 feet southwest of the centerline of the Outer Bar Channel, occupying an area of approximately 1.36 square nautical miles. Water depths range from 46 to 53 feet. The site is rectangular in shape with corner coordinates at:

NW ODMDS	Latitude	Longitude
North Corner	27°47'43.1052"N	97°0'12.9522"W
East Corner	27°47'16.1052"N	96°59'25.9512"W
South Corner	27°45'50.1084"N	97°0'25.9488"W
West Corner	27°46'18.1086"N	97°1'12.9512"W

The CCSC ODMDS No.1 received the administrator's final designation pursuant to section 102(c) on July 11, 1989. The CCSCIP NW ODMDS was originally designated for use for the US Navy Homeport Project; however, it has not been used because that project was not implemented. The CCSCIP NW ODMDS is currently authorized to use this site and work is currently underway.

CHARACTERISTICS AND COMPOSITION OF THE DREDGED MATERIAL: The 2003 *CCSCIP Feasibility Report* tested the material that is within the footprint of the proposed CDP and found that the material was suitable for offshore disposal as well as BU. The proposed CDP dredged material is not expected to be different than the sediment material currently authorized to be dredged in the CCSCIP.

Date	Type of Testing
Dec-16/Jan-17	Toxicity and Bioaccumulation Assessment

PROPOSED LENGTH OF TIME DISPOSAL ACTIVITIES WILL OCCUR AT ODMDS: Following the authorization of the Federal CCSCIP, quantities for the use of this site for Jetty and Entrance Channels, and Entrance Channel Extension were expected to double, resulting in a use of the site every two years. The Corps also planned to use the site for other CCSCIP segments less frequently for future suitable material. The following table represents the planned Federal maintenance frequency:

Channel Segments	Dredge Area Stations	Est Volume per Contract	Dredging Rate (Years)
Entrance Channel	-210+00 to 36+00	1,000,000	2
Inner Basin to La Quinta	36+00 to 500+00	800,000	5
La Quinta to Beacon 82	500+00 to 1090+00	1,000,000	2
Beacon 82 to Viola TB (Inner Harbor)	1100+00 to 1587+00	1,500,000	4
La Quinta	0+00 to 382+00	500,000	3
Rincon	0+00 to 150+00	400,000	7

AUTHORIZED DISPOSAL EFFECTS: Dredged material deposited at the ODMDS No.1 disperse and erode quickly. There are no significant environmental resources delineated within or immediately outside of the designated ODMDS. Since this site is dispersive in nature, the primary concern of the use of the site is the potential short-term buildup of dredged material, such that a hazard to navigation is presented. Another concern is whether there is significant short-term transport of the dredged material beyond the

ODMDS boundaries; specifically, the benthic community can be impacted if significant rapid movement of material off the site occurs, resulting in burial of benthic populations outside the site.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The CCSCIP currently is authorized to extend from Stations -210+00 to -330+00 out into the Gulf of Mexico. This stretch of the proposed project as well as the portion that extends into the Aransas Pass inside the jetties is classed as a deep water marine habitat. The Entrance Channel segment of the CCSC is currently maintained to a depth of -49 feet MLLW and the Lower Bay segment to a depth of -47 feet MLLW. The CCSC has been federally authorized to a depth of -56 feet MLLW from the Gulf of Mexico to the end of the jetties in the Entrance Channel segment, and to -54.0 feet MLLW in the Lower Bay segment. Dredging work to reach the authorized depths is currently starting out in the Gulf on the entrance channel.

The proposed feeder berms (B1 – B9) will be placed in unvegetated ocean bottom nearshore to facilitate sediment transfer to the beaches that have been heavily impacted by Hurricane Harvey. Placement Option HI-E is located in the Mission – Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (MANERR). Placement options M10, PA9-S, M3, PA6, and SS2 occur in Corpus Christi Bay. Placement options M4, SS1, and PA4 occur in Redfish Bay State Scientific Research Area.

Harbor Island shoreline has slowly, but exponentially, eroded over the past 10 years. Recent aerial imagery indicates that a new channel has formed from within the tidal flat/historical spoil site and has separated the mangrove stand (*Avicennia germinans*) on the southern portion of the island from the northern developed portion of the island. Areas where the proposed BU placement would occur within Redfish Bay contains submerged aquatic vegetation (SAV), mainly *Halodule wrightii* (shoalgrass). Shoalgrass, as well as the fringed tidal *Spartina alterniflora* (cordgrass), intertidal mangrove stands, and fringed estuarine wetlands, is considered essential fish habitat for some or all life cycles of species that utilize these areas.

In the context of the geographic area, numerous important resources may be affected. The largest neighboring resource, located 20 miles south of the project site, is the Padre Island National Seashore, the largest stretch of undeveloped barrier island in the world and home to the National Park Service's Division of Sea Turtle Science and Recovery. Immediately to the north of the project site is San Jose Island, a privately-owned undeveloped barrier island known to be occupied by numerous Endangered Species Act (ESA) federally listed threatened and endangered sea turtle and bird species, including Whooping Cranes (*Grus americana*), Piping Plovers (*Charadrius melodus*), and Red Knots (*Calidris canutus*). Immediately behind San Jose Island is Redfish Bay State Scientific Area (RBSSA), a state-designated 14,000-acre area for the purpose of education, scientific research, and preservation of flora and fauna of scientific or educational value. In addition, the area includes the Mission-Aransas National Estuarine Research Reserve (MANERR), a state and federal partnership that conducts research, education, and stewardship programs funded by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The MANERR is the third largest National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR) in the United States and the only NERR in Texas.

In addition to the potential direct, indirect and cumulative effects to these unique aquatic ecosystems, the proposed PCCA project will impact two ESA federally designated critical habitat units, one for piping plovers (*Charadrius melodus*) and the other for loggerhead sea turtles (*Caretta caretta*). This impact is in addition to proposed impacts to habitat occupied by piping plovers, Red Knot (*Calidris canutus rufa*), West Indian manatee (*Trichechus manatus*) green sea turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricate*), Kemp's ridley sea turtle (*Lepidochelys kempii*), leatherback sea turtle (*Dermochelys coriacea*), and loggerhead sea turtle that are not designated as critical.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The following is the applicant's statement on how they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts: PCCA understands that discharges into waters of the US should not occur unless it can be shown that the discharge would not result in an unacceptable adverse impact on the aquatic ecosystem. It is also understood that if there is a practicable alternative to the discharge, the discharge should not occur. A practicable alternative is not available that would meet the proposed project requirements and achieve the project purpose. The proposed project would increase crude oil export efficiency for the Nation, reducing trade deficits, and fostering economic development. The result of the proposed action would be a more efficient channel to export crude oil. The proposed project meets the project purpose and need. The placement alternatives were developed in coordination with resource agencies, and considered public input during open house meetings at the start of the project. The resultant proposed placement alternatives make extensive use of BU to address ecological restoration needs that the agencies desire. The volume of material and volume of sands are valuable assets, and the dredging and placement presents a unique and major opportunity to address restoration needs in this estuary and barrier island system.

COMPENSATORY MITIGATION: The Corps may incorporate consideration of proposed mitigation measures during various stages of its decision making. For instance, mitigation can play a role in the scope of the EIS, in the alternatives to the proposed action, the consequences to that action, and finally in the explanation of the decision rendered. Included in PCCA's application is the statement that impacts to seagrass or wetlands would be offset by reconfiguring the beneficial use (BU) placement sites to be able to host the impacted habitat.

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 23 sheets.

A previous review of this application concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is required.

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.

The return water from the upland contained dredge material placement area(s) requires an independent certification by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ). The applicant must obtain a Section 401-water quality certification from the TCEQ for the effluent or return water discharge. A copy of the 401-certification must also be furnished to the Corps of Engineers prior to the Corps making a decision on the proposed project.

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 proposed activity has the potential to adversely affect historic properties. Therefore, a cultural resources investigation is required to determine if historic properties exist within the permit 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 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 **30 August 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-2019-00067**, and should be submitted to:

Regulatory Division, CESWG-RDP
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, Texas 77550
361-814-5847 Phone
SWG201900067@usace.army.mil

DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS