

Appendix E

Agency and Tribal Coordination

Brazos Island Harbor, Texas Channel Improvement Project Cameron County, Texas

**U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District
2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, Texas 77550**

December 2013



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

March 18, 2013

Environmental Section

Mr. Rusty Swafford
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, Texas 77551

Dear Mr. Swafford:

This letter is in regard to proposed modification of the Brazos Island Harbor Navigation Project in Cameron County, Texas. The existing project is shown on the enclosed figure. The project is expected to include deepening and possibly widening of the Entrance Channel and Brownsville Ship Channel, to allow larger vessels and offshore oil rigs to more efficiently navigate to the Turning Basin located near Brownsville, Texas.

To facilitate compliance with the requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, we are requesting information on essential fish habitat or managed species that may be present in the area of the proposed action.

If you or your staff have any questions regarding this activity, please contact Janelle Stokes at (409) 766-3039 or by email at Janelle.S.Stokes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Murphy".

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE

Southeast Regional Office

263 13th Avenue South

St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

<http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov>

Southeast Regional Office
263 13th Avenue S
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5505

May 22, 2013

Ms. Carolyn Murphy
Environmental Section
Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Dear Ms. Murphy:

The NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Habitat Conservation Division (HCD) has received your letter dated March 18, 2013, requesting information on Essential Fish Habitat and federally managed fish species that may be present near the proposed Brazos Island Harbor Navigation Project. It is expected the project will include deepening and widening of the Entrance Channel and the Brownsville Ship Channel to allow larger vessels and offshore oil rigs to more efficiently navigate to the Turning Basin located near Brownsville, Texas. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is preparing an Environmental Assessment which will include EFH information, presumably including the USACE's determination of whether this project may have an adverse effect on essential fish habitat (EFH).

Submerged soft bottom habitats near the project are identified as EFH by the Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council (GMFMC) and NMFS for multiple species. A table providing a list of these species is enclosed to assist you in assessing whether the project would have an adverse effect on EFH. Detailed information on federally managed fisheries and their EFH is provided in the 2005 Generic Amendment of the Fishery Management Plans for the Gulf of Mexico prepared by the GMFMC and in the 2009 Amendment 1 to the Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan prepared by NMFS as required by the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (Magnuson-Stevens Act) (P.L. 104 – 297). In addition to being designated as EFH, the open water soft bottom areas that could be impacted provide habitat that supports various economically important marine fishery species, such as spotted seatrout (*Cynoscion nebulosus*), flounder (*Paralichthys spp.*), Atlantic croaker (*Micropogonias undulates*), black drum (*Pogonias cromis*), gulf menhaden (*Brevoortia patronus*), striped mullet (*Mugil cephalus*), and blue crab (*Callinectes sapidus*). Such estuarine dependent organisms serve as prey for other fisheries managed under the Magnuson-Stevens Act by the GMFMC (e.g., red drum, mackerels, snappers, and groupers) and highly migratory species managed by NMFS (e.g., billfishes and sharks).



This project will generate a significant amount of new work dredge material and future work maintenance dredge material over the life of the project. Therefore, NMFS HCD recommends the USACE work with the project's local sponsor to evaluate whether there are nearby opportunities to beneficially utilize any suitable dredge material. Disposal of the dredge material into upland confined placement areas and offshore dredge material disposal sites would remove sediment from the estuary and nearshore systems and waste this valuable natural resource. NMFS HCD views beneficial use and wise regional sediment management as critical components of environmentally acceptable federal projects.

Thank you for contacting us. We look forward to further coordination with the USACE regarding this project. If we may be of further assistance, please contact Ms. Heather Young of our Galveston Facility at (409) 766-3699.

Sincerely,



Virginia M. Fay
Assistant Regional Administrator
Habitat Conservation Division

Enclosure

Enclosure

Reef Fish that utilize soft bottom Essential Fish Habitat near the Brazos Island Harbor Navigation Project		
Species	Life Stage	Function
Gray Snapper (<i>Lutjanus griseus</i>)	Adults	feeding
Lane Snapper (<i>Lutjanus synagris</i>)	Early Juvenile Late Juvenile Adults	growth, feeding growth, feeding growth, feeding

Red Drum that utilize soft bottom Essential Fish Habitat near the Brazos Island Harbor Navigation Project		
Species	Life Stage	Function
Red Drum (<i>Sciaenops ocellatus</i>)	Larval Post Larval Early Juvenile Subadult Adults	growth, feeding growth, feeding growth, feeding growth, feeding feeding

Shrimp that utilize soft bottom Essential Fish Habitat near the Brazos Island Harbor Navigation Project		
Species	Life Stage	Function
Brown Shrimp (<i>Farfantepenaeus aztecus</i>)	Post Larval Early Juvenile Late Juvenile	growth, feeding growth, feeding growth, feeding
White Shrimp (<i>Litopenaeus setiferus</i>)	Post Larval Early Juvenile Late Juvenile	growth, feeding growth, feeding growth, feeding
Pink Shrimp (<i>Farfantepenaeus duorarum</i>)	Post Larval Early Juvenile Late Juvenile	growth, feeding growth, feeding growth, feeding

EFH information used to create this table was obtained from:

Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. 2004. Final environmental impact statement for the generic amendment to the following fishery management plans of the Gulf of Mexico: Shrimp Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico, United States Waters; Red Drum Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Coastal Migratory Pelagic Resources (Mackerels) in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Stone Crab Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Spiny Lobster in the Gulf of Mexico and South Atlantic; Coral and Coral Reefs of the Gulf of Mexico. Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council. Tampa, FL.

Enclosure

Highly Migratory Species With Essential Fish Habitat near the Brazos Island Harbor Navigation Project	
Species	Life Stage
Scalloped Hammerhead (<i>Sphyrna lewini</i>)	neonate/young of year juvenile
Blacktip Shark (<i>Carcharhinus limbatus</i>)	neonate/young of year juvenile adult
Bull Shark (<i>Carcharhinus leucas</i>)	neonate/young of year juvenile
Lemon Shark (<i>Negaprion brevirostris</i>)	juvenile
Spinner Shark (<i>Carcharhinus brevipinna</i>)	neonate/young of year juvenile
Bonnethead Shark (<i>Sphyrna tiburo</i>)	neonate/young of year juvenile adult
Atlantic Sharpnose Shark (<i>Rhizoprionodon terraenovae</i>)	neonate/young of year juvenile adult
Finetooth Shark (<i>Carcharhinus isodon</i>)	juvenile adult

EFH information used to create this table was obtained from:

NMFS. 2009. Final Amendment 1 to the 2006 Consolidated Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fishery Management Plan, Essential Fish Habitat. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, Highly Migratory Species Management Division, Silver Spring, MD. Public Document. pp. 395.



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

December 2, 2013

Environmental Section

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas

Mr. Mike Jansky
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Mail Code 6 ENXP
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Mr. Jansky:

Enclosed please find three CD's of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas. This draft report is provided for your agency in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The public comment period closes on January 7, 2014, and we would appreciate receipt of your agency's comments by that date. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Janelle Stokes at the letterhead address, by telephone at 409-766-3039, or by email at Janelle.S.Stokes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Murphy".

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

December 2, 2013

Environmental Section

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas

Ms. Karen McCormick
Chief, Marine and Coastal Protection Section (WQEC)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Dear Ms. McCormick:

Enclosed please find a CD of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (DIFR-EA) for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas. This draft report is provided for your agency review of the Ocean Dredged Material Disposal Site (ODMDS) analysis, attached as Appendix F to the DIFR-EA in Appendix B, in accordance with Section 102 of the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act. The Tentatively Selected Plan proposes to utilize previously designated New Work and Maintenance ODMDS for dredged material from the Entrance and Jetty Channels. Neither of the existing sites would need to be enlarged and no new ODMDS are proposed. This draft report was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508).

We understand that preparation and approval of a Site Management and Monitoring Plan will be required before the ODMDS may be used. We plan to begin development of this plan in the Pre-Construction, Engineering and Design Phase and will coordinate with your agency to determine requirements as early as possible in this process.

The public comment period closes on January 7, 2014, and we would appreciate receipt of your agency's comments by that date. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Janelle Stokes at the letterhead address, by telephone at 409-766-3039, or by email at Janelle.S.Stokes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Murphy".

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

December 2, 2013

Environmental Section

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas

Mr. Miles Croom
Assistant Regional Administrator
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
263 13th Avenue South
St. Petersburg, Florida 33701-5511

Dear Mr. Croom:

Enclosed please find a CD of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (DIFR-EA) for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas. This draft report is provided for your agency review and concurrence of the evaluation of essential fish habitat (EFH) in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Sections 2.3.4 and 7.4.2 of the DIFR-EA provide information regarding the existing environment and potential EFH impacts, respectively.

The results of your review are requested by the end of the public comment period, January 7, 2014. I would appreciate your timely review of these documents. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Janelle Stokes at the letterhead address, by telephone at 409-766-3039, or by email at Janelle.S.Stokes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "M".

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

December 2, 2013

Environmental Section

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas

Mr. Rusty Swafford
National Marine Fisheries Service
Habitat Conservation Division
4700 Avenue U
Galveston, Texas 77551-5997

Dear Mr. Swafford:

Enclosed please find a CD of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (DIFR-EA) for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas. This draft report is provided for your agency review and concurrence of the evaluation of essential fish habitat (EFH) in accordance with the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Sections 2.3.4 and 7.4.2 of the DIFR-EA provide information regarding the existing environment and potential EFH impacts, respectively.

The results of your review are requested by the end of the public comment period, January 7, 2013. I would appreciate your timely review of these documents. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Janelle Stokes at the letterhead address, by telephone at 409-766-3039, or by email at Janelle.S.Stokes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Murphy".

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

December 2, 2013

Environmental Section

Edith Erfling
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Clear Lake Ecological Services Field Office
17629 El Camino Real, Suite 211
Houston, Texas 77058

Dear Ms. Erfling:

Enclosed please find a CD of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas. This draft report is provided for your agency in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The public comment period closes on January 7, 2014, and we would appreciate receipt of your comments by that date. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Janelle Stokes at the letterhead address, by telephone at 409-766-3039, or by email at Janelle.S.Stokes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Murphy".

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

December 2, 2013

Environmental Section

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas

Ms. Kate Zultner
Texas General Land Office
Coastal Management Program
P.O. Box 12873
Austin, Texas 78701-2873

Dear Ms. Zultner:

Enclosed please find a CD of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas. This draft report is provided for your review of the Consistency Determination pursuant to §506.20, Consistency Determination for Federal Agency Activities and Development Projects of the Texas Coastal Management Program.

The public comment period closes on January 7, 2014, and we would appreciate receipt of your comments by that date. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Janelle Stokes at the letterhead address, by telephone at 409-766-3039, or by email at Janelle.S.Stokes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

December 2, 2013

Environmental Section

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas

Ms. Susana M. Hildebrande, P.E.
Air Quality Planning Section
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087, Mail Code 168
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Dear Ms. Hildebrande:

Enclosed please find a CD of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas. This draft report is provided for your agency review of projected air quality impacts of the Tentatively Selected Plan in accordance with the Clean Air Act and the National Environmental Policy Act.

The public comment period closes on January 7, 2014, and we would appreciate receipt of your comments by that date. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Janelle Stokes at the letterhead address, by telephone at 409-766-3039, or by email at Janelle.S.Stokes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "C" and "M".

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

December 2, 2013

Environmental Section

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas

Mr. Gregg Easely
Water Quality Team Leader
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087, Mail Code 150
Austin, Texas 78711-3087

Dear Mr. Easely:

Enclosed please find a CD of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment (DIFR-EA) for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas. This draft report is provided for your agency review under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act. The U.S. Army Corp of Engineers is requesting a §401 State Water Quality certification from Texas for this action. The §404(b)(1) Evaluation is provided in Appendix G of the DIFR-EA.

The public comment period closes on January 7, 2014, and we would appreciate receipt of your comments by that date. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Janelle Stokes at the letterhead address, by telephone at 409-766-3039, or by email at Janelle.S.Stokes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Murphy".

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

December 2, 2013

Environmental Section

SUBJECT: Draft Environmental Assessment for Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas

Ms. Rebecca Hensley
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
1502 FM 517E
Dickinson, Texas 77539-8687

Dear Ms. Hensley:

Enclosed please find a CD of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Assessment for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project, Cameron County, Texas. This draft report is provided for your agency's review in conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act.

The public comment period closes on January 7, 2014, and we would appreciate receipt of your comments by that date. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Janelle Stokes at the letterhead address, by telephone at 409-766-3039, or by email at Janelle.S.Stokes@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Murphy".

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosure

CF:
Randy Blankinship
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
95 Fish Hatchery Road
Brownsville, Texas 78520



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

November 21, 2013

Environmental Section

SUBJECT: Proposed Programmatic Agreement for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project.

Mr. Jimmy Arterberry
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Comanche Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 908
Lawton, OK 73502

Dear Mr. Arterberry:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposes to initiate a Programmatic Agreement (PA) pursuant to 36CFR800.14 (b) for the Brazos Island Harbor (BIH) Channel Improvement Project in Cameron County, Texas. Because effects on historic properties cannot be fully determined prior to approval of the undertaking, we find it necessary to initiate this PA to address the potential effects upon historic properties that may be discovered as a result of construction activities, and to address potential effects during operation and maintenance of the existing and proposed project. A Draft PA is enclosed for your review (Enclosure 1).

The purpose of the project is to improve navigation efficiency within the BIH Channel. As part of a feasibility study of the project, the USACE produced a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - Environmental Assessment (DIFR-EA) and has conducted archival research and historic properties investigations in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. A CD copy of the DIFR-EA is provided with this letter for your review. The feasibility study produced a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) (the 52-foot deep by 250-foot wide project) that would include extending and deepening the offshore BIH Entrance Channel and deepening the BIH Jetty Channel and Main Channel. No widening of the existing channel widths is proposed. Dredged material would be placed in existing upland dredged material placement areas, a nearshore feeder berm and offshore dredged material disposal sites.

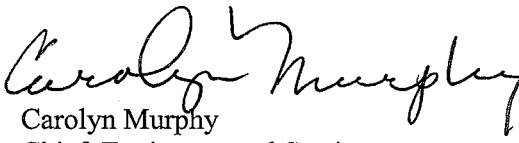
The Area of Potential Effects (APE) includes all areas to be directly affected by channel dredging and dredged material placement and subsequent maintenance activities. This includes the existing footprint of the BIH channel and the Entrance Channel extension to the proposed depths and the existing dredged material placement areas (New Work Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS), Maintenance ODMDS, Feeder Berm, and PAs 2, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 7, and 8). A detailed description of the TSP and the APE is provided in the enclosed "Cultural Resources and Project Summary for the Programmatic Agreement" (Enclosure 2).

Six historic properties investigations have been conducted directly within the project area for both terrestrial and submerged resources. For the present undertaking, the USACE conducted a historic properties investigation of the BIH channel in 2012 and the results of this investigation were coordinated with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). As a result of this recent investigation and the five previous investigations within the APE, the USACE determined, in consultation with the Texas

SHPO, that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed undertaking. Although, no historic properties have been identified within the APE, there is a potential for unanticipated discovery of cultural materials, particularly as a result of maintenance dredging. Unanticipated discoveries are covered by this PA and the perpetual curation of any cultural materials recovered during the course of construction or maintenance activities will be the responsibility of the Port of Brownsville.

We request your review and comment on the DIFR-EA and draft PA and welcome any comments or concerns you may have regarding the PA. The public comment period for the DIFR-EA report will end on January 7, 2014 and we will need all comments regarding the DIFR-EA or PA in by that date. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process. If you have any questions concerning this project or if we can be of further assistance, please contact John A. Campbell at 409-766-3878.

Sincerely,


Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

November 21, 2013

Environmental Section

SUBJECT: Proposed Programmatic Agreement for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project.

Amie Tah-Bone
Museum Director
Acting NAGPRA Representative
Kiowa Indian Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 369
Carnegie, OK 73015-0369

Dear Ms. Tah-Bone:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposes to initiate a Programmatic Agreement (PA) pursuant to 36CFR800.14 (b) for the Brazos Island Harbor (BIH) Channel Improvement Project in Cameron County, Texas. Because effects on historic properties cannot be fully determined prior to approval of the undertaking, we find it necessary to initiate this PA to address the potential effects upon historic properties that may be discovered as a result of construction activities, and to address potential effects during operation and maintenance of the existing and proposed project. A Draft PA is enclosed for your review (Enclosure 1).

The purpose of the project is to improve navigation efficiency within the BIH Channel. As part of a feasibility study of the project, the USACE produced a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - Environmental Assessment (DIFR-EA) and has conducted archival research and historic properties investigations in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. A CD copy of the DIFR-EA is provided with this letter for your review. The feasibility study produced a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) (the 52-foot deep by 250-foot wide project) that would include extending and deepening the offshore BIH Entrance Channel and deepening the BIH Jetty Channel and Main Channel. No widening of the existing channel widths is proposed. Dredged material would be placed in existing upland dredged material placement areas, a nearshore feeder berm and offshore dredged material disposal sites.

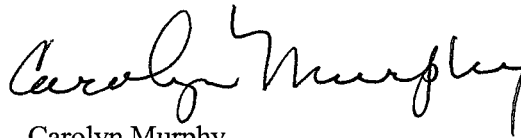
The Area of Potential Effects (APE) includes all areas to be directly affected by channel dredging and dredged material placement and subsequent maintenance activities. This includes the existing footprint of the BIH channel and the Entrance Channel extension to the proposed depths and the existing dredged material placement areas (New Work Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS), Maintenance ODMDS, Feeder Berm, and PAs 2, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 7, and 8). A detailed description of the TSP and the APE is provided in the enclosed "Cultural Resources and Project Summary for the Programmatic Agreement" (Enclosure 2).

Six historic properties investigations have been conducted directly within the project area for both terrestrial and submerged resources. For the present undertaking, the USACE conducted a historic properties investigation of the BIH channel in 2012 and the results of this investigation were coordinated with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). As a result of this recent investigation and the

five previous investigations within the APE, the USACE determined, in consultation with the Texas SHPO, that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed undertaking. Although, no historic properties have been identified within the APE, there is a potential for unanticipated discovery of cultural materials, particularly as a result of maintenance dredging. Unanticipated discoveries are covered by this PA and the perpetual curation of any cultural materials recovered during the course of construction or maintenance activities will be the responsibility of the Port of Brownsville.

We request your review and comment on the DIFR-EA and draft PA and welcome any comments or concerns you may have regarding the PA. The public comment period for the DIFR-EA report will end on January 7, 2014 and we will need all comments regarding the DIFR-EA or PA in by that date. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process. If you have any questions concerning this project or if we can be of further assistance, please contact John A. Campbell at 409-766-3878.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'C'.

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

November 21, 2013

Environmental Section

SUBJECT: Proposed Programmatic Agreement for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project.

Holly Houghton
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Mescalero Apache Tribe
P.O. Box 227
Mescalero, NM 88340

Dear Ms. Houghton:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposes to initiate a Programmatic Agreement (PA) pursuant to 36CFR800.14 (b) for the Brazos Island Harbor (BIH) Channel Improvement Project in Cameron County, Texas. Because effects on historic properties cannot be fully determined prior to approval of the undertaking, we find it necessary to initiate this PA to address the potential effects upon historic properties that may be discovered as a result of construction activities, and to address potential effects during operation and maintenance of the existing and proposed project. A Draft PA is enclosed for your review (Enclosure 1).

The purpose of the project is to improve navigation efficiency within the BIH Channel. As part of a feasibility study of the project, the USACE produced a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - Environmental Assessment (DIFR-EA) and has conducted archival research and historic properties investigations in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. A CD copy of the DIFR-EA is provided with this letter for your review. The feasibility study produced a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) (the 52-foot deep by 250-foot wide project) that would include extending and deepening the offshore BIH Entrance Channel and deepening the BIH Jetty Channel and Main Channel. No widening of the existing channel widths is proposed. Dredged material would be placed in existing upland dredged material placement areas, a nearshore feeder berm and offshore dredged material disposal sites.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) includes all areas to be directly affected by channel dredging and dredged material placement and subsequent maintenance activities. This includes the existing footprint of the BIH channel and the Entrance Channel extension to the proposed depths and the existing dredged material placement areas (New Work Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS), Maintenance ODMDS, Feeder Berm, and PAs 2, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 7, and 8). A detailed description of the TSP and the APE is provided in the enclosed "Cultural Resources and Project Summary for the Programmatic Agreement" (Enclosure 2).

Six historic properties investigations have been conducted directly within the project area for both terrestrial and submerged resources. For the present undertaking, the USACE conducted a historic properties investigation of the BIH channel in 2012 and the results of this investigation were coordinated with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). As a result of this recent investigation and the five previous investigations within the APE, the USACE determined, in consultation with the Texas

SHPO, that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed undertaking. Although, no historic properties have been identified within the APE, there is a potential for unanticipated discovery of cultural materials, particularly as a result of maintenance dredging. Unanticipated discoveries are covered by this PA and the perpetual curation of any cultural materials recovered during the course of construction or maintenance activities will be the responsibility of the Port of Brownsville.

We request your review and comment on the DIFR-EA and draft PA and welcome any comments or concerns you may have regarding the PA. The public comment period for the DIFR-EA report will end on January 7, 2014 and we will need all comments regarding the DIFR-EA or PA in by that date. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process. If you have any questions concerning this project or if we can be of further assistance, please contact John A. Campbell at 409-766-3878.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Carolyn Murphy". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosures



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 1229
GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

November 21, 2013

Environmental Section

SUBJECT: Proposed Programmatic Agreement for the Brazos Island Harbor Channel Improvement Project.

Miranda "Nax'ce" Allen
Tonkawa Tribe of Oklahoma
1 Rush Buffalo Road
Tonkawa, OK 74653

Dear Ms. Allen:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) proposes to initiate a Programmatic Agreement (PA) pursuant to 36CFR800.14 (b) for the Brazos Island Harbor (BIH) Channel Improvement Project in Cameron County, Texas. Because effects on historic properties cannot be fully determined prior to approval of the undertaking, we find it necessary to initiate this PA to address the potential effects upon historic properties that may be discovered as a result of construction activities, and to address potential effects during operation and maintenance of the existing and proposed project. A Draft PA is enclosed for your review (Enclosure 1).

The purpose of the project is to improve navigation efficiency within the BIH Channel. As part of a feasibility study of the project, the USACE produced a Draft Integrated Feasibility Report - Environmental Assessment (DIFR-EA) and has conducted archival research and historic properties investigations in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. A CD copy of the DIFR-EA is provided with this letter for your review. The feasibility study produced a Tentatively Selected Plan (TSP) (the 52-foot deep by 250-foot wide project) that would include extending and deepening the offshore BIH Entrance Channel and deepening the BIH Jetty Channel and Main Channel. No widening of the existing channel widths is proposed. Dredged material would be placed in existing upland dredged material placement areas, a nearshore feeder berm and offshore dredged material disposal sites.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) includes all areas to be directly affected by channel dredging and dredged material placement and subsequent maintenance activities. This includes the existing footprint of the BIH channel and the Entrance Channel extension to the proposed depths and the existing dredged material placement areas (New Work Offshore Dredged Material Disposal Sites (ODMDS), Maintenance ODMDS, Feeder Berm, and PAs 2, 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 7, and 8). A detailed description of the TSP and the APE is provided in the enclosed "Cultural Resources and Project Summary for the Programmatic Agreement" (Enclosure 2).

Six historic properties investigations have been conducted directly within the project area for both terrestrial and submerged resources. For the present undertaking, the USACE conducted a historic properties investigation of the BIH channel in 2012 and the results of this investigation were coordinated with the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). As a result of this recent investigation and the five previous investigations within the APE, the USACE determined, in consultation with the Texas SHPO, that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed undertaking. Although, no historic

properties have been identified within the APE, there is a potential for unanticipated discovery of cultural materials, particularly as a result of maintenance dredging. Unanticipated discoveries are covered by this PA and the perpetual curation of any cultural materials recovered during the course of construction or maintenance activities will be the responsibility of the Port of Brownsville.

We request your review and comment on the DIFR-EA and draft PA and welcome any comments or concerns you may have regarding the PA. The public comment period for the DIFR-EA report will end on January 7, 2014 and we will need all comments regarding the DIFR-EA or PA in by that date. Thank you for your cooperation in this review process. If you have any questions concerning this project or if we can be of further assistance, please contact John A. Campbell at 409-766-3878.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carolyn Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial 'C'.

Carolyn Murphy
Chief, Environmental Section

Enclosures