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**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**
Galveston District

UPDATE REPORT FOR THE 8TH DISTRICT

Current as of May 2011

Kevin P. Brady
U.S. House of Representatives
8th Congressional District



About the Galveston District

With its rich heritage in Texas history, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District plays a key role in America's well-being by keeping waterways open for navigation and commerce and serves the nation as part of the world's largest public engineering, design and construction management agency.

Encompassing the Texas coast from Louisiana to Mexico; an area that spans across 50,000 square miles, includes 48 counties, two parishes and 16 congressional districts, the Galveston District successfully executes its mission of providing vital public engineering services in peace and war to strengthen our nation's security, energize the economy and reduce risks from disasters.

With its 370 dedicated professionals and annual budget of approximately \$150 million, the Galveston District will continue to provide valuable navigation, flood risk mitigation, environmental, shoreline protection, regulatory, military construction and emergency management services to our nation and remains fully committed to continuing our mission of building strong.

*"It is a great privilege to serve our nation
as the commander of the U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers Galveston District."*

– Col. Christopher W. Sallèse
District Engineer and Commanding Officer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District



2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, TX 77550

Public Affairs Office:
(409) 766-3004

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www.twitter.com/usacegalveston



Contact:

John Machol
409-766-3944

John.F.Machol@usace.army.mil

Texas Environmental Infrastructure Program

Background:

The program consists of providing environmental assistance in the form of planning, design and construction assistance for water-related environmental infrastructure and resource protection and development projects to non-federal interests in Texas. This work includes projects for water supply; storage; treatment and related facilities; water quality protection; wastewater treatment and related facilities; environmental restoration; and surface water resource protection and development; as identified by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). The TWDB, in coordination with the Texas Water Conservation Association, Texas Rural Water Association and individual local public entities, have identified \$210 million in currently proposed projects that are in urgent need of funds to meet short-term water supply needs. Out of this \$210 million, 12 high-priority projects have been identified totaling \$46,086,000.

Issue:

The Texas State Water Plan regional planning groups identified about 4,500 water management strategies to meet water supply needs over the next 50 years. Many of these strategies have been initiated and federal assistance (under the Texas Environmental Infrastructure Program, coupled with significant funding appropriated by the Texas Legislature), will ensure that water supply needs are met in the most efficient and timely manner.

Current Status:

There were no funds allocated in the fiscal year 2011 or FY12 President's Budgets for this program.



Example of a reservoir near Brownsville, Texas.



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8th District Authorized Studies

Lower Sabine River

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY: The Sabine River flows from headwaters in Hunt County, Texas, and forms much of the border between Texas and Louisiana before draining to the Gulf of Mexico through Sabine Lake. The Sabine River Basin has the second largest average watershed yield of any major river basin in Texas. This high yield value is due to the high precipitation and low evaporation rates within the region. The non-federal sponsor has recently expressed an interest in cost-sharing a collaborative basin-wide study to include environmental restoration and all other purposes. The reconnaissance phase was completed in June 2004. There is no ongoing work on the study.

FY11 President's Budget:	\$0
FY12 President's Budget:	\$0
Total cost of project:	\$5,300,000

Sabine Neches River Basin

FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STUDY: The Neches River Basin is bound on the north and east by the Sabine River Basin, on the west by the Trinity River Basin, and on the south by the Neches-Trinity Coastal Basin. The Neches Basin is a prolific water resource and could be used to supply additional water both inside and outside the basin. The purpose for the study is to evaluate flood damage reduction, ecosystem restoration, water supply, and recreation possibilities within the watershed. Potential projects include multi-purpose reservoirs, development of wetlands to provide habitat and improve water quality for aquatic ecosystems, restoration of riverine corridors, development of a comprehensive watershed plan, and other measures. The need to begin this important study will continue to intensify, as planning for capital improvements and infrastructure become stymied due to the lack of a basin-wide management plan to account for water quality, water quantity and allow for new water permits. There are no ongoing activities as the project has never been funded.

FY11 President's Budget:	\$0
FY12 President's Budget:	\$0
Total cost of project:	\$16,498,000





Sabine Neches Waterway

NAVIGATION STUDY: The Sabine Neches Waterway (SNWW) is a federally constructed deep draft navigation project, which serves the Ports of Port Arthur, Beaumont, and Orange in Jefferson and Orange counties, Texas, and Cameron and Calcasieu Parishes, La. The waterway is ranked third in the nation for tonnage volume in foreign trade (according to data from the Waterborne Commerce Statistics Center) and supplies 55 percent of the nation's strategic petroleum reserves. The current study has recommended modifying the existing waterway by deepening the channel to 48 feet to avoid delays, increase safety and improve efficiency. The estimated construction cost is \$1.2 billion with a 1.3 benefit-to-cost ratio.

FY11 President's Budget:	\$0
FY12 President's Budget:	\$0
Total cost of project:	\$2,620,000





8th District Operations and Maintenance

Sabine-Neches Waterway

The Sabine-Neches Waterway is a 79-mile deep draft ship channel which extends from the 42-foot contour in the Gulf of Mexico through a jettied channel to Port Arthur, to Beaumont via the Neches River Channel, and to Orange via the north part of Sabine Lake and continues via the Sabine River Channel. The project is located in the vicinities of Beaumont, Port Arthur, Orange, and Sabine Pass in Jefferson and Orange counties, Texas, and Cameron and Calcasieu parishes, La. The channel is authorized to 40 feet from the Jetty Channel to the intersection of the Neches and Sabine River, where it is authorized at 30 feet. The Sabine Neches Waterway is ranked 4th in the nation by tonnage and supports a large percentage of the nation's petrochemical industry and has two Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) facilities. The Port of Beaumont is a strategic military outload port that supports the war efforts. Operations and maintenance funds allow the Corps to keep the waterway open for navigation, as the commodities imported and exported through the channel contribute to the economic success of the nation.

FY11 President's Budget:

\$14,330,000

FY12 President's Budget:

\$14,182,000

