

**STATEMENT OF FINDINGS
AND
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
FOR
EMERGENCY REPAIRS
TO
TEXAS CITY AND VICINITY
TEXAS HURRICANE FLOOD PROTECTION PROJECT
GALVESTON COUNTY, TEXAS
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT
GALVESTON, TEXAS**

1. Purpose. This document addresses the proposed repairs to the levee system of the Texas City and Vicinity Federal Hurricane Flood Protection Project (Texas City HFPP) that was damaged during Hurricane Ike. The project is located between Moses Lake and Galveston Bay in Texas City, Galveston County, Texas. Various sections of the Texas City HFPP appear to have suffered damaged from several factors including erosion of the levee toe, wave attack displacing protective armor, and degradation of the levee cross section due to erosion of the embankment. Because the damage has contributed to several potential failure modes and any future storm could involve a unique combination of surge, duration and wave attack, it is nearly impossible to define a single remaining level of protection with the available data. Given the damaged condition of the project, the remaining level of protection is estimated to be between a 25-year and a 100-year event. A 2% annual probability of failure was selected as the most reasonable estimate of remaining protection based upon a 50-year storm event causing flooding behind the line of protection. The flooding could result from levee failure due loss of stability due to toe erosion, failure of the riprap armor resulting in rapid erosion of the levee embankment, or a piping or rapid drawdown slope failure of the already stressed cross sections. This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) and Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations to document findings concerning the environmental impacts of the proposed action.

2. Proposed Action. Storm surge and wave action from Hurricane Ike caused severe damage to portions of the levee system of the Texas City and Vicinity HFPP, including riprap displacement and severe erosion of the levee slope and toe. Rehabilitation and repairs to the Texas City and Vicinity HFPP will include the use of geotextile, blanket stone and riprap to restore the pre-storm cross-sections and/or conditions to areas that were damaged by erosion during Hurricane Ike as follows:

- Interior Levee Repairs - Station 150+00 to 152+50 where 250 linear feet of interior levee slope located northwest of Moses Lake was eroded
- Moses Lake Floodgate Protection - Stations 192+00 to 197+00 and 200+00 to 205+00 where the riprap and armoring system was eroded or displaced
- Levee Erosion Section One - Stations 205+00 to 278+00, 303+00 to 311+00, and 313+00 to 320+00, where levee erosion ranged from 5 to 15 feet
- Levee Erosion Section Two - Station 356+00 to 370+00, where levee erosion ranged from 40 to 50 feet
- Riprap Displacement - Stations 370+00 to 448+00 and 457+00 to 464+00 where the levee toe protection was damaged and riprap was displaced along the length of the levee

3. Coordination. A Notice of Availability was issued to interested parties including Federal and state agencies on February 25, 2009, which described the proposed action and announced the availability of the Draft EA. Comments on the Notice of Availability and Draft EA and the District's responses are included in Appendix G of the Final EA.

4. Environmental Effects. Galveston District has taken every reasonable measure to evaluate the environmental, social and economic impacts of the proposed project. Based on information provided in the EA and coordination with Federal, state, and local agencies, temporary and permanent effects resulting from the proposed project have been identified and can be found in Section 4 of the Final EA. The Texas City HFPP repair work is expected to have minor temporary local impacts to recreation and wildlife from construction related noise, EFH, water quality from increased turbidity, and traffic due to increased construction equipment. These resources are expected to recover to pre-project conditions after the work is completed. The proposed project is expected to contribute beneficially to public health and safety and is not expected to contribute negative cumulative impacts to the area. The project has been found to be consistent with the Texas Coastal Management Plan, compliant with Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has issued a waiver of Section 401 certification for the project. A Section 404(b)(1) Evaluation (short form) of project impacts to water quality indicates the project will not adversely affect water quality. It is the District's conclusion that the proposed project will not have a significant impact on the environment or to the surrounding human population.

5. Determinations. The analysis of the environmental impacts of the proposed project is based on the accompanying Final EA. Factors considered in the review were impacts to vegetation, wildlife, aquatic resources including Essential Fish Habitat (EFH), threatened and endangered species and proposed piping plover critical habitat, cultural resources, socioeconomic resources, Environmental Justice, Prime and Unique Farmlands, Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Wastes, air, noise, water quality, as well as alternative courses of action and cumulative impacts. The proposed project was found to be compliant with the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, EFH, and the Texas Coastal Management Plan (TCMP).

Hazardous, Toxic, and Radioactive Wastes, air, noise, water quality, as well as alternative courses of action and cumulative impacts. The proposed project was found to be compliant with the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, EFH, and the Texas Coastal Management Plan (TCMP).

6. Findings. Based on my analysis of the Final EA and other information pertaining to the proposed project, I find that the proposed repairs to the Texas City HFPP will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Galveston District reviewed the project for consistency with the goals and policies of the TCMP. Based on this analysis, I find that the proposed plan is consistent with the goals and policies of the TCMP. After consideration of the information presented in the Final EA, I have determined that an environmental impact statement is not required under the provisions of NEPA, Section 102, and other applicable regulations of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and that the proposed project may be constructed.

06 APRIL 2009
(date)



David C. Weston
Colonel, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers,
District Engineer