

MEMORANDUM

TO: Judge Loyd Neal, Nueces County Commissioners Court

CC: Commissioner Joe McComb, Nueces County Precinct 4
Mr. Tyner Little, Assistant to Commissioners Court
Mr. Glenn Sullivan, Nueces Co. Dept. Public Works
Jenny Boyd, Office of the County Attorney

FROM: Fred McCutchon, Chair, Nueces County Beach Management Advisory Committee

SUBJECT: Nueces County Beach Management Advisory Committee Recommendation for Approval of the Draft Joint Erosion Response Plan

DATE: May 16, 2012

On May 2, 2012, the Nueces County Beach Management Advisory Committee considered a Draft of the Joint Erosion Response Plan of Nueces County and the City of Corpus Christi. The Committee reviewed the draft and heard presentations from Robert Payne, representative from the City of Corpus Christi, Greg Smith, Chair of the ERP Joint Working Group, and Fred McCutchon. After consideration of the draft and discussion, the Committee unanimously recommends that the Commissioners Court approve the draft and proceed with the implementation process.

As background, the 81st Texas Legislature adopted amendments to the Natural Resources Code recognizing the importance of Texas's coastal environment as a valuable natural resource, and the threat to the coast and its populations from erosion due to storm damage and natural causes. The amendments required the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to adopt regulations that planned for erosion and its related effects.

The GLO adopted regulations requiring that local governments in coastal counties adopt an Erosion Response Plan as an appendix to the Beach Management Plan for that governmental entity in order to qualify for coastal grant programs. The ERP addresses designated areas. The GLO regulations are published as Section 15.17 to the Title 31 of the Texas Administrative Code, Subchapter A on Management of the Beach/Dune System.

The Beach Management Advisory Committee approved a Joint Working Group comprised of BMAC members, City of Corpus Christi Planning Commission members, and members of the Island Strategic Action Advisory Committee. After a number of meetings and revisions, the group finalized a draft of the ERP for public comment and adoption.

The Draft ERP recognizes that Nueces County's economy depends on a healthy and accessible coastal environment, since Padre and Mustang Islands increasingly draw tourists, new residents, and new businesses. The Draft ERP focuses on a wide, stable beach as the first line of defense to erosion, and a wide, high dune system as the second line of defense to storm surges and other causes of erosion. The draft also plans for preserving and enhancing beach access, as well as planning for construction where erosion might have effected material changes in a protected area.