

MINUTES
GULF COAST PROTECTION DISTRICT

August 13, 2025

The Board of Directors (the "Board") of Gulf Coast Protection District (the "District") met in regular session, open to the public, on the 13th day of August, 2025, at 1150 Gemini Street, Suite 1050, Houston, Texas 77058, inside the boundaries of the District, and the roll was called of the members of the Board:

Michel Bechtel	President
Bob Mitchell	Vice President
Sally Bakko	Secretary
Larry Taylor	Assistant Secretary
Roger Guenther	Director
Lori Traweek	Director
Billy Combs	Director
Tina Petersen	Director
Allan Ritter	Director
Kirk Roccaforte	Director
Sharon D. Hulgan	Director

and all of the above were present except Director Mitchell, thus constituting a quorum.

Also present for all or part of the meeting were: Coalter Baker, Executive Director for the District; Dedrea Norman, Chief Financial Officer for the District; Emily McGinty, Executive Assistant to the Executive Director for the District; Heather Betancourth, Communications Director for the District; Allen Sims of Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 ("DD 7"); Don Carona and Ray Russo, representing Orange County Drainage District ("OCDD") and DD7; Kelly Burks-Copes, Rhonda Gregg-Hirsh, and Toni Addison of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE"); Sarah Purdon, Mary Davison, Tony Williams, and Joshua Oyer of the Texas General Land Office ("GLO"); Chris Sallese of GFT Infrastructure, Inc. ("GFT"); Ross Gordon of Gordon Consulting Group; Kelly Hanen and David Oliver of Allen Boone Humphries Robinson LLP ("ABHR"); and other members of the public, including those persons included on the attached list.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Baker called roll and confirmed a quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Board considered approving the minutes of the July 9, 2025, meeting. After review and discussion, Director Roccaforte moved to approve the minutes of the July 9, 2025, meeting as submitted. Director Hulgán seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL AND BOOKKEEPING MATTERS

Ms. Norman reviewed the bookkeeper's report, including the list of checks for payment of District bills, a copy of which is attached. After review and discussion, Director Ritter moved to approve the bookkeeper's report and payment of the bills. Director Combs seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

REVIEW BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR END SEPTEMBER 30, 2026

Ms. Norman presented the proposed fiscal year end September 30, 2026, budget. Further discussion regarding the same was tabled until the matter was discussed in executive session.

REPORT FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR AND CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Ms. Norman reported on financial and administrative efforts from the previous month. She reported on preparation and submittal of a Reimbursement Request to the GLO for funding appropriated by Senate Bill 1, 87th Texas Legislature, Regular Session ("SB 1") on behalf of DD 7. Ms. Norman further reported on the recruitment efforts for a Grant Accounting Manager and a Chief Program Manager.

Mr. Baker reported on coordination efforts with the Texas Legislature, including special session items related to natural disaster preparation and recovery. Mr. Baker further reported that the District's staff continues to coordinate with the Governor's office regarding Board re-appointments and appointment of a presiding officer.

Mr. Baker provided a report regarding meetings that he, Director Bechtel, and representatives from OCDD and DD7 attended in Washington, D.C. from June 22 - June 24, 2025, to chart a path forward for the Sabine to Galveston ("S2G") projects, including meetings with appropriations staff, staff for Senator Cruz and Senator Cornyn, and Eddie Belk, the departing Director of Civil Works. He also reported regarding meetings that he, Director Bechtel, and representatives from GLO attended in Washington, D.C. from July 28 - July 31, 2025, regarding the coordination of letters from the Texas Congressional delegation to the Office of Management and Budget Director to support the Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Project ("Coastal Texas").

Mr. Gordon reported that GCPD and USACE continue to coordinate efforts related to the Orange County Separable Element of S2G (the "Orange County Project")

Chief's Discretionary Authority memorandum and Post Authorization Change Report. Mr. Gordon stated that the District and OCDD have a meeting scheduled with Brigadier General Walter on August 11, 2025, to discuss the Orange County Project matters. Mr. Gordon further reported that representatives from the District, OCDD, and DD7 are working to schedule additional meetings with Ryan Fisher (interim Director of Civil Works) and Major General Kelly to continue discussions on this matter.

Mr. Gordon reported that GFT is collecting Torrent Floodwall information from USACE and intends to bring forward a proposal to the Board in September to take over the design of the Torrent Floodwall feature. Mr. Gordon also reported that GFT is preparing a proposal, at the request of USACE, to perform system-wide wetland hydrology modeling to support the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

Mr. Gordon reported that 30% design plans for the initial segment of ecosystem restoration segment G-28, Bolivar Peninsula and West Bay Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Shoreline and Island Protection ("G-28-1"), a component of the Coastal Texas Project, are on schedule for delivery in September. He further stated that the GLO and its contractors will perform the required Coastal Boundary Survey for the project.

Mr. Gordon then reported on the GLO Sediment Sources Studies and the Texas A&M University at Galveston ("TAMUG") Gate Alternatives Study, both with final reports expected in the coming months.

Mr. Gordon also reported regarding monthly meetings with the City of Houston regarding the feasibility of accessing sediment from Lake Houston for beach nourishment projects.

Mr. Gordon reported that District representatives are working with TAMUG, Rice University, and other academic institutions to create an "Academic Advisory Council" to support GCPD in the development of the Coastal Texas Project.

Mr. Gordon provided an update on Coastal Texas matters and reported that (1) the District continues to work with GLO and USACE on refinement of a strategy for a Project Partnership Agreement for Coastal Texas; and (2) the proposed amendment to the Design Agreement between the District and USACE for Coastal Texas remains at the Office of Management and Budget ("OMB"). Mr. Baker noted that Congressman Weber reached out to OMB on the District's behalf to request an update on the status of the proposed Design Agreement amendment.

Mr. Gordon also briefly updated the Board regarding the status of the Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services for the Bolivar Roads Gate System (RFQ-2025-1) and Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services for the Bolivar and West Galveston beach and Dune System (RFQ-2025-2).

REPORT FROM PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD

Director Bechtel provided a brief update regarding the efforts he and Mr. Baker have made at the state and national levels. He further reported on upcoming travel to the United Kingdom and the Netherlands on behalf of the District. Mr. Bechtel also notified the Board of the passing of Harris L. "Shrub" Kempner, Jr. and stated that Mr. Kempner was an advocate for the District and will be dearly missed.

APPROVE TEXAS SMARTBUY MEMBERSHIP PROGRAM RESOLUTION

Ms. Norman presented a resolution to the board authorizing the District to participate in the Texas SmartBuy Membership Program, the Texas Comptroller of Public Accounts cooperative purchasing program (the "Resolution"). After review and discussion, Director Ritter moved to approve the Resolution and direct that it be filed appropriately and retained in the District's official records. Director Traweck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

RENEWAL OF THE DISTRICT'S HEALTH, DENTAL, AND VISION INSURANCE POLICIES

Ms. Norman presented a proposal regarding the renewal of the District's health, dental, and vision insurance policies, a copy of which is attached. After review and discussion, Director Combs moved to approve (1) the proposal for health, dental, and vision insurance; and (2) a \$2,000 employer-funded Health Reimbursement Account for District employees. Director Hulgán seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

APPROVE TASK ORDER UNDER PROGRAM MANAGEMENT AND ENGINEERING SERVICES CONTRACT WITH GFT INFRASTRUCTURE, INC. FOR 2025-2026 FISCAL YEAR

Mr. Baker presented GFT's 2025-2026 proposed Scope of Work and Fee Proposal for Program Management and Engineering Services Contract and associated Task Order No. A-3. After review and discussion, Director Ritter moved to approve the above-described task order and direct that it be filed appropriately and retained in the District's official records. Director Traweck seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

SABINE TO GALVESTON MATTERS

Messrs. Sallese and Gordon gave a presentation on District program management matters related to the Orange County Project.

Mr. Gordon updated the Board on the Post-Authorization Change Report ("PACR") efforts and reviewed the current schedule for the various elements of the PACR process.

Mr. Sallese provided an update on coordination with USACE regarding review of the full phase II environmental site assessment report for the Orange County Project and development of a strategy to address potential HTRW-related matters.

Mr. Sallese updated the Board on the status of design of the Arlanxeo Levee project. He reported that 60% design plans for the project are currently under review by USACE and 90% design is ongoing.

Mr. Sallese then updated the Board on the status of design of the Torrent Floodwall project by USACE. He reported that design is on hold pending updated utility survey results and utility relocations, and real estate acquisition for the project is on hold pending submittal of 60% design plans. He noted that the District is preparing a scope of work and fee estimate to assume responsibility of design work for the project.

Mr. Sallese reviewed a summary of recent program management activities and upcoming program management activities for the next 30-60 days. He also reviewed financials for the program management team.

Mr. Corona stated that USACE will hold a public scoping meeting for the Orange County Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on September 17, 2005.

REPORT FROM JEFFERSON COUNTY DRAINAGE DISTRICT NO. 7

Mr. Sims provided a report on the status of construction contracts and utility relocations for the Jefferson County Separable Element of S2G.

Mr. Sims stated DD7 is planning to hold a public meeting for PAV04 in the coming months.

COASTAL TEXAS MATTERS

Mr. Gordon reported that 30% design plans for G-28-1 are on schedule for delivery in September. Mr. Gordon also briefly updated the Board regarding the status of the Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services for the Bolivar Roads Gate System (RFQ-2025-1) and Request for Qualifications for Engineering Services for the Bolivar and West Galveston beach and Dune System (RFQ-2025-2). He stated that the question and comment period closed on August 8, 2025, and all questions have been answered. He reported on the August 22, 2025, deadline for submissions.

REPORT FROM GENERAL LAND OFFICE

Ms. Purdon gave a presentation related to the status of G-28-1. She stated that delivery of the 30% design is expected in September 2025. She further stated that 90% design is expected to be delivered in March 2026. Ms. Purdon reported the project will

not require a Phase 2 ESA; however, 0.25-acres of oyster reef would be impacted by the breakwater.

REPORT FROM REGION 6 STATE FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

Director Bakko updated the board regarding the 2028 Regional Flood Plan. She further reported that changes to FEMA may require the scope and necessity of the District's projects to serve as preventive measures to future floods.

EMPLOYMENT MATTERS

The Board discussed this matter during executive session.

CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.071, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, TO CONSULT WITH ATTORNEYS

At 11:40 a.m., the Board convened in executive session pursuant to Section 551.071, Texas Government Code, to seek the advice of its attorney on legal matters related to Coastal Texas. The Board determined that Mr. Baker, Mr. Gordon, Mr. Corona, Ms. Norman, and Ms. Betancourth's attendance in this executive session was necessary for the Board to obtain the necessary legal advice from its attorneys and requested their presence in the executive session. Present at the closed meeting were all Directors except for Director Mitchell, Mr. Baker, Ms. Norman, Ms. Betancourth, Mr. Corona, Mr. Gordon, Ms. Hanen, and Mr. Oliver.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 1:07 p.m., the Board reconvened in open session.

CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.072, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, TO DELIBERATE THE PURCHASE, EXCHANGE, LEASE, OR VALUE OF REAL PROPERTY

The Board did not convene in executive session pursuant to Section 551.072, Texas Government Code.

CONVENE IN EXECUTIVE SESSION PURSUANT TO SECTION 551.074, TEXAS GOVERNMENT CODE, TO DELIBERATE THE APPOINTMENT, EMPLOYMENT, EVALUATION, REASSIGNMENT, DUTIES, DISCIPLINE, OR DISMISSAL OF A PUBLIC OFFICER OR EMPLOYEE

At 1:08 p.m., the Board convened in executive session pursuant to Section 551.074, Texas Government Code, to discuss employment matters related to District personnel. Present at the closed meeting were all Directors except for Director Mitchell, Mr. Baker, Ms. Norman, Ms. Hanen, and Mr. Oliver.

RECONVENE IN OPEN SESSION AND AUTHORIZE APPROPRIATE ACTION

At 1:12 p.m., the Board reconvened in open session.

SCHEDULE AND LOCATION FOR NEXT MEETING

Following discussion, the Board concurred to hold the District's next meeting on September 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, the meeting was adjourned.


Secretary, Board of Directors

(SEAL)



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