

COASTAL QUARTERLY

The Newsletter for the Gulf Coast Protection District

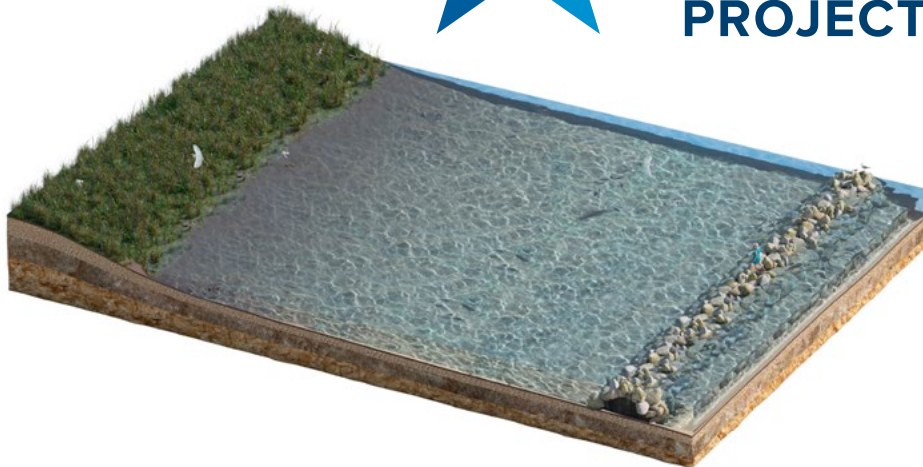
SPRING 2025



PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

GCPD, GLO, and USACE Initiate Design Activities on the Coastal Texas Project

Following appropriation of \$500K of Federal funding in the FY24 Work Plan, the GCPD and the GLO are pleased to announce the two parties have executed an interlocal project cooperation agreement for the GLO and its contract partner to design the first segment of the Bolivar Peninsula and West Bay Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Shoreline and Island Protection Feature (known as G-28). This work is being performed as Work-In-Kind under the Design Agreement executed between the GCPD and USACE. Completion of this design effort will position the Coastal Texas Project for an initial construction award, pending Federal appropriations, as early as 2026. This effort exemplifies the collaborative strategies being employed by USACE, the GCPD, and the GLO to advance the implementation of the Coastal Texas Project.



Join Us for Our Next Board Meeting

The April GCPD Board Meeting will be held in Houston at the GCPD office:

GCPD Board Meeting
Wednesday, April 9th, 2025
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

1150 Gemini Street,
Houston, TX 77058

The public may attend GCPD Board Meetings in-person or watch via the [livestream here](#). The livestream can also be accessed via the Gulf Coast Protection District [Facebook](#) page during board meetings. Importantly, to provide public comment, you must be present in-person and sign up in advance of the meeting.

Board Meeting agendas are posted to the [GCPD website](#) approximately one week prior to the meeting. Meeting details, including date, time, location, and live stream information, are also available on the [GCPD calendar](#).

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DISTRICT NEWS

Harris County Appoints Dr. Tina Petersen to GCPD Board of Directors - August 2024

The GCPD is pleased to announce that Harris County Flood Control District Executive Director, Dr. Tina Petersen, has joined the GCPD Board of Directors. The Harris County Commissioners Court recently appointed Dr. Petersen to represent Harris County on the Board of Directors, replacing Commissioner Adrian Garcia who served in this role since the creation of the GCPD in 2021. Dr. Petersen's term is set to expire on June 16, 2027. Learn more here. [Learn more here.](#)



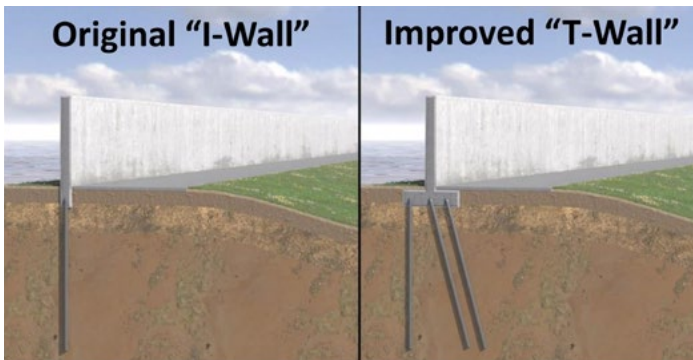
PROJECT UPDATES

S2G Orange County Project ([Learn More](#)) Field Investigations Underway for the Orange County Project

Contractors from USACE and GCPD are currently conducting various types of field investigations to advance the Orange County Project. USACE contractors are working on geotechnical, cultural resources, and environmental investigations. GCPD contractors are working on Phase II environmental site assessments, in addition to environmental and cultural resources investigations to support initial construction contracts. Soon, the GCPD will also be conducting survey activities to support real estate acquisition. For questions regarding right-of-entry or the real estate acquisition process, the public may contact the USACE at svg-re@usace.army.mil or the GCPD at info@gcpdtexas.com.

Orange County Project Design and Construction Update

Preliminary design efforts for the Orange County Project continue to proceed ahead. In 2025, USACE anticipates completing the program-wide Preliminary Engineering and Geotechnical Investigation task orders. In addition, the final design of three early start construction contracts continues, with the target to award construction contracts in 2026. Concurrently, USACE and the GCPD continue to refine interior drainage designs and are preparing a Post Authorization Change Report, scheduled for completion in 2026. USACE is also preparing supplemental environmental documents. Following the completion of the Preliminary Engineering task order, USACE anticipates issuing final design task orders for a next wave of construction contracts in 2025 or 2026. The Project Team is planning to employ a phased construction approach which will allow the project to be constructed incrementally as engineering designs are finalized and environmental clearance is obtained.



The S2G Port Arthur Project will replace existing "I-wall" floodwalls with sturdier "T-wall" floodwall designs.

S2G Port Arthur Project ([Learn More](#))

Port Arthur Project Continues to Move Forward with Design and Construction

The Port Arthur Project continues to advance with the first construction contract (PAV01) completed and the second construction contract (PAV03A) underway. In addition, the USACE anticipates awarding Contract PAV04, the next Port Arthur Project construction contract, in Spring 2025. The Project Team anticipates advertising additional construction contracts in 2025 (PAV03A.1) and 2026 (PAV03B and PAV03C). Construction of the Port Arthur Project is anticipated to be completed by 2033.

Coastal Texas Project ([Learn More](#))

Coastal Texas Project Provided Funding in FY 2024 Work Plan - May 2024

On May 13, 2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) published its 2024 Work Plan allocating a first installment of Federal funding to the Coastal Texas Project. Specifically, the Army Civil Works Program FY 2024 Work Plan provides \$500,000 to support the preconstruction engineering and design of the first segment of the Bolivar Peninsula and West Bay Gulf Intracoastal Waterway Shoreline and Island Protection feature, also known as Ecosystem Restoration feature G-28, and to prepare the project for construction. [Learn more here.](#)

Coastal Texas Project Ranked #1, District Projects Prominently Featured, in Final 2024 State Flood Plan

The GCPD is pleased to report that its projects are featured prominently in the Final 2024 Texas State Flood Plan, approved by the Texas Water Development Board on August 15, 2024. Specifically, the Coastal Texas Project is the #1 ranked flood mitigation project state-wide. The two Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay (S2G) projects are also ranked, with the Orange County segment at #4 and the Port Arthur segment at #9. [Learn more here.](#)

GCPD and Texas GLO Sign Design Agreement for the Coastal Texas Project - August 2024

On August 1, 2024, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) signed a Design Agreement to partner on the design of the Coastal Texas Project, specifically the Galveston Bay Storm Surge Barrier System and Ecosystem Restoration feature G-28. Ecosystem Restoration feature G-28 includes shoreline and island protection along the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway on Bolivar Peninsula the north shore of West Bay. In signing the Design Agreement, the GCPD formally takes on the role of non-Federal sponsor for the design of these specific features and will be responsible for providing 35% of all design costs. [Learn more here.](#)



A rendering of the proposed Coastal Texas Project's beach and dune system



GCPD Territory and Location of GCPD Projects

Coastal Texas Project ([Learn More](#)) Hurricane Beryl After Action Report

On July 8, 2024, Hurricane Beryl made landfall in Texas as a Category 1 hurricane. Beryl broke records by being the earliest storm to achieve Category 4 and 5 status on record. The storm track represented a worst-case scenario for Galveston Bay, pushing the highest surge up Galveston Bay and into the Houston Ship Channel; however, given its size (only a Category 1 at landfall), storm surge topped out at approximately 10 ft. Millions of residents, the engines of the Texas and national economies, and global supply chains are at risk when hurricanes hit the Texas coast. The Coastal Texas Project is formulated to protect the coast from the surge-related impacts of Hurricane Beryl, and that of a stronger (Category 2-5) hurricane, and represents the single most effective and comprehensive means of safeguarding the Texas coast from future hurricanes.

Thank You for Your Service - Nicole Sunstrum Steps Down as GCPD Executive Director

Nicole Sunstrum was appointed by Governor Greg Abbott to serve as the first Executive Director of the Gulf Coast Protection District and was subsequently approved unanimously by the District's Board of Directors. Since her appointment as Executive Director, Nicole has worked tirelessly with project partners and state and national representatives to advocate for the Gulf Coast region, and to further the mission of the Gulf Coast Protection District and its associated projects. We thank her for her tremendous service, and wish her the best in her future endeavors.

Learn More About the Projects:



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