

Erosion Response Plan Executive Summary

The purpose of the Erosion Response Plan is to reduce storm damage along the City and County gulf coastlines. The 81st Legislature amended Chapter 33 of the Natural Resources Code provided authority to the Texas General Land Office to formulate rules for local governments with gulf coast lines in their jurisdictions to create Erosion Response Plans.

The Erosion Response Plan will be used by the General Land Office to qualify local governments for certain GLO grants. The Plan will be used by the City and the County to justify submission of grants for GLO funding for beach renourishment, dune system enhancements and improvements for public beach access.

A draft City Erosion Response Plan was presented to City Council in June 2011. The City Council recommended the draft plan, with changes, to be submitted to the Texas General Land Office. (GLO) Part of City Council direction to staff was to develop a final plan that is as similar to the County's as possible. The GLO provided comments on the draft plan by October 2011. The Planning Department then formed an informal group of County officials and City officials to develop the final plan document. The informal group included representatives from the City Beach Dune Committee, the County Beach Management and Dune Protection Advisory Committee, the Water Shore Advisory Committee, and the Island Strategic Action Advisory Committee.

The Erosion Response Plan Addresses:

- Assessment of the foredune ridge in the Corpus Christi and Nueces County jurisdictions.
- Review of scientific studies concerning storm surge, coastal erosion, and sea level rise.
- Review of FEMA velocity zones on Mustang and Padre Islands.
- The plan identifies the beach as the first line of defense to storm surge and the foredune ridge as the second line of defense.
- The plan defines the minimum width of the public beach for provision of public beach access as 100 feet wide from the Line of Vegetation to the wet/dry line on the beach.
- The goal for enhancing the foredune ridge is to establish a dune system of at least 14 feet high, 350 foot deep, and containing at least 50% vegetative coverage.
- Mitigation sites for enhancing the foredune ridge are identified and prioritized.
- Establishment of a 350 foot building setback line located 350 feet landward of the Line of Vegetation along the gulf beach. The building setback line will prevent new construction of residential or commercial buildings within the foredune ridge.
- Land that is landward of the seawall is exempt from the Building Setback.
- Existing structures are exempt from the building setback prohibition, provided there is no practicable alternatives, that the foot print of the building is not increased and that the new structure meets new construction guidelines.
- The plan addresses enhancements to public beach access. Generally, these enhancements to public access focus on designs to reduce damage to the public access ways after storm events.

The criteria for potential acquisition of property seaward of the Building Setback Line.