

Resolution to support submission of proposal under Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRDA 2014)" to US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to modify the North Padre Island Storm Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration project (Packery Channel) to remove Flood Risk Management as an authorized project purpose

WHEREAS, The North Padre Island Storm Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration Project (Packery Channel) was authorized by Section 556 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1999 (WRDA 99) (P.L. 106- 53). The project consists of dredging a 12-foot deep by 116-foot wide channel to connect the existing Packery Channel to the Gulf of Mexico. The total length of the proposed channel from the Gulf end of the jetties to the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) is approximately 18,500 feet (3.5 miles). Approximately 15,000 cubic yards of estimated maintenance dredging was estimated to be required every year to keep the channel open. The maintenance dredged material is to be placed in an upland site for beach nourishment.

WHEREAS, the Packery Channel project has been a major success for the region since project construction was completed in 2006. We have realized significant recreational and safety benefits as the maintained opened waterway provides easy access to the Gulf of Mexico for recreational boating interests. We have also realized significant fish and wildlife benefits from the project as it also provides a constant tidal exchange that has improved fishing in the Upper Laguna Madre. Maintenance dredging was originally estimated to be required every year. However, since the project was completed, maintenance dredging has only been required twice.

WHEREAS, The Packery Channel sustained major damage in Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

WHEREAS, in early 2020 FEMA declined to fund repairs for the damage caused by Hurricane Harvey under the belief that Packery Channel was eligible for assistance under the USACE P.L. 84-99 Rehabilitation and Inspection Program (RIP)

WHEREAS, On May 25, 2021, USACE issued a final determination that the jetties and associated structures were primarily built for channel alignment, protection against shoreline erosion, and for the benefit of fish and wildlife, which are not project purposes eligible for funding under the P.L. 84-99 (RIP). USACE further determined the Flood Risk Management (FRM) benefits are incidental to the project since the benefits result from placement of maintenance dredge material along the beach. As such, the proposed repairs to Packery Channel were determined not to be eligible for rehabilitation assistance under P.L. 84-99 (RIP).

WHEREAS, it took more than 3 years to resolve the confusion between USACE and FEMA. The City would like to codify the USACE determination by modifying the WRDA 99 authorization for Packery Channel to remove Flood Risk Management as a project purpose

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI TEXAS is pleased to submit the attached 2021 proposal in accordance with Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRDA 2014).

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI TEXAS respectfully requests the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) support the recommendation to modify the North Padre Island Storm Damage Reduction and Ecosystem Restoration (Packery Channel) project to remove Flood Risk Management (FRM) as an authorized project purpose.

PASSED AND APPROVED on the _____ day of _____, 2021:

Paulette M. Guajardo _____

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ATTEST:

CITY OF CORPUS CHRISTI

Rebecca Huerta

City Secretary

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Mayor