

**Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission
Package**

Proposal Name: Neches River Basin Flood Risk Management Study

Submission Date: 08/26/2019

Proposal ID Number: 96c246b3-de10-4447-822c-72c5b5cedb25

Purpose of Proposal: The project is to provide sustainable, long-term flood and storm damage reduction to protect life and property along the lower Neches River in Jefferson, Hardin and Tyler Counties, and parts of Liberty and Chambers Counties. A secondary purpose is to protect unique aquatic ecosystem of the Big Thicket National Preserve from impacts of major flood events. The cities of Bridge City, Orange, Beaumont and Port Arthur were devastated by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. This area is home to one of the largest petrochemical centers in the nation. Flooding and storm damage reduction are longstanding major issues that regularly threaten life and damage homes, businesses, health care facilities, streets and bridges along the lower Neches River.

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Neches River Basin Flood Risk Management Study

by Agency: Lower Neches Valley Authority

Locations: TX

POC Name:

POC Phone:

POC Email:

Date Submitted: 08/26/2019

Confirmation Number: 96c246b3-de10-4447-822c-72c5b5cedb25

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
NF Sponsor Support Letter - Neches River Basin Flood Control Feasibility Study.pdf	08/26/2019
Neches Basin Map from Definite Project Report on Neches and Angelina Rivers Texas Project Vol 1.pdf	08/26/2019
LNVA Endorsement.pdf	08/26/2019
Jasper County USACE Flood Study Letter - Aug 2019.pdf	08/26/2019
08052019134147.pdf	08/26/2019
SUPPORT FOR THE LOWER NECHES VALLEY.pdf	08/26/2019
Port of Beaumont Letter of Support-LNVA Flood Risk Management Study.pdf	08/26/2019

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
Lower Neches Valley Authority (Primary)	<p>The LNVA is pleased to submit the attached 2019 proposal in accordance with Section 7001 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014 (WRDA 2014). We respectfully request the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) conduct a feasibility study to identify opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding for citizens and industry within the Neches River Basin. Currently, there are no flood risk management projects on the Neches River. Flooding on the Neches River has become almost an annual event. The worst flooding was seen during Hurricane Harvey, when more than 50 inches of rain resulted in almost 92,000 homes being flooded in Jefferson and Orange Counties. There was more than a billion dollars in damage in Jefferson county alone, with the loss of 17 lives. During Harvey, the Neches River at Evadale recorded its second highest level ever recorded since 1884, which caused a portion of the Highway 69 bridge over Village Creek near Silsbee to collapse due to the flooding. The prolonged misery from Hurricane Harvey peaked with the loss of the Beaumont municipal water system that left residents lacking running water, unable to flush toilets, desperate for basic sanitation, and fearful for their health. The lower Neches River region is home to one of the largest petrochemical centers in the nation, which drives the economies of Southeast Texas and the U.S. This region produces 13 percent of the nation's daily fuel consumption, produces 60 percent of the nation's commercial jet fuel and a majority of the U.S. military jet fuel, manages 55 percent of the nation's strategic petroleum reserves, and is projected to become the largest LNG exporter in the United States. Current annual economic benefits of the region include more than \$13 billion and more than 128,000 permanent jobs. These benefits extend throughout the state of Texas and the United States as a whole. The LNVA agrees to be the non-Federal sponsor for this project.</p>

3. State if this proposal is for new feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing USACE project authority, or a modification to an existing USACE Environmental Infrastructure Program authority. If it is a proposal for a modification to an existing study, project or program authority, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

[x] New Feasibility Study Authority

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

The project is to provide sustainable, long-term flood and storm damage reduction to protect life and property along the lower Neches River in Jefferson, Hardin and Tyler Counties, and parts of Liberty and Chambers Counties. A secondary purpose is to protect unique aquatic ecosystem of the Big Thicket National Preserve from impacts of major flood events. The cities of Bridge City, Orange, Beaumont and Port Arthur were devastated by Hurricane Harvey in 2017. This area is home to one of the largest petrochemical centers in the nation. Flooding and storm damage reduction are longstanding major issues that regularly threaten life and damage homes, businesses, health care facilities, streets and bridges along the lower Neches River.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
Construction	\$0	\$0	\$0

Explanation (if necessary)

The intent of this 7001 proposal is to obtain authority to conduct a comprehensive assessment of water resources issues within the Escatawpa River Basin within the confines of the SMART Planning initiative, which is to complete a feasibility study within 3 years and at a cost of up to \$3 million.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

The monetary and non-monetary benefits of this proposal have not been quantified recently. Currently, there are no flood risk management projects on the Neches River. Flooding on the Neches River has become almost an annual event. The worst flooding was seen during Hurricane Harvey, when more than 50 inches of rain resulted in almost 92,000 homes being flooded in Jefferson and Orange Counties. There was more than a billion dollars in damage in Jefferson county alone, with the loss of 17 lives. During Harvey, the Neches River at Evadale recorded its second highest level ever recorded since 1884, which caused a portion of the Highway 69 bridge over Village Creek near Silsbee to collapse due to the flooding. The prolonged misery from Hurricane Harvey peaked with the loss of the Beaumont municipal water system that left residents lacking running water, unable to flush toilets, desperate for basic sanitation, and fearful for their health.

b . National Economy: The lower Neches River region is home to one of the largest petrochemical centers in the nation, which drives the economies of Southeast Texas and the U.S. This region produces 13 percent of the nation's daily fuel consumption, produces 60 percent of the nation's commercial jet fuel and a majority of the U.S. military jet fuel, manages 55 percent of the nation's strategic petroleum reserves, and is projected to become the largest LNG exporter in the United States. Current annual economic benefits of the region include more than \$13 billion and more than 128,000 permanent jobs. These benefits extend throughout the state of Texas and the United States as a whole.

c. Environment: Flood waters and storm surges from Neches River flow into the Big Thicket National Preserve, which has the potential to damage the pristine forests and aquatic ecosystem.

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

By letter dated August 23, 2019, the LNVA has stated their support to act as the non-federal sponsor for the study. In addition to support from the LNVA, statements of support for the study has been received from the Port of Beaumont, Jefferson County, Hardin County, and Jasper County.

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

Yes

Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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**NF Sponsor Support Letter - Neches River Basin Flood Control
Feasibility Study.pdf**



LOWER NECHES VALLEY AUTHORITY

MUNICIPAL • INDUSTRIAL • AGRICULTURAL WATER

August 23, 2019

Colonel Timothy Vail
Commander, Galveston District
U.S Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

RE: Request to Initiate a Flood Control Feasibility Study of the Neches River Basin

Dear Colonel Vail:

The Lower Neches Valley Authority (LNVA) is requesting assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a study to address flooding issues in the Neches River Basin. Flooding on the Neches River has become almost an annual event. Currently, there are no flood risk management projects on the Neches River. The worst flooding was seen during Hurricane Harvey, when more than 50 inches of rain resulted in almost 92,000 homes being flooded in Jefferson and Orange Counties. There was more than a billion dollars in damage in Jefferson County alone, with the loss of 17 lives. During Harvey, the Neches River at Evadale recorded its second highest level ever recorded since 1884, which caused a portion of the Highway 69 bridge over Village Creek near Silsbee to collapse due to the flooding. The prolonged misery from Hurricane Harvey peaked with the loss of the Beaumont municipal water system that left residents lacking running water, unable to flush toilets, desperate for basic sanitation, and fearful for their health.

The lower Neches River region is home to one of the largest petrochemical centers in the nation, which drives the economies of Southeast Texas and the U.S. This region produces 13 percent of the nation's daily fuel consumption, produces 60 percent of the nation's commercial jet fuel and a majority of the U.S. military jet fuel, manages 55 percent of the nation's strategic petroleum reserves, and is projected to become the largest LNG exporter in the United States. Current annual economic benefits of the region include more than \$13 billion and more than 128,000 permanent jobs. These benefits extend throughout the state of Texas and the United States as a whole.

The LNVA intends to submit a Section 7001 proposal to obtain a specific study authority for a new feasibility study to assess options to reduce the risk of flooding in the Neches River Basin. Concurrently with this action, we request USACE initiate actions to budget for funding in the FY2020 Work Plan to conduct the study using the attached general study resolution, adopted July 31, 2007, for the Neches River Basin. The LNVA intends to serve as the sponsor for the feasibility study. We understand that the Corps will initially investigate the problem to determine whether it meets the requirements for federal participation. We further understand that the first \$100,000 in funding for the feasibility study is fully federally funded, and that any feasibility study costs above that would be cost-shared 50% federal and 50% non-federal. We

are committed to this project and are willing, able and would be financially prepared to participate in the feasibility study. We look forward to executing a cost-sharing agreement for the study at the appropriate time in the process.

We look forward to meeting with your staff in the near future to share additional information on this very important study. Please contact Risa Barber via phone call at (409) 892-4011 or email at risa.barber@LNVA.dst.tx.us for further information or assistance.

Respectfully,

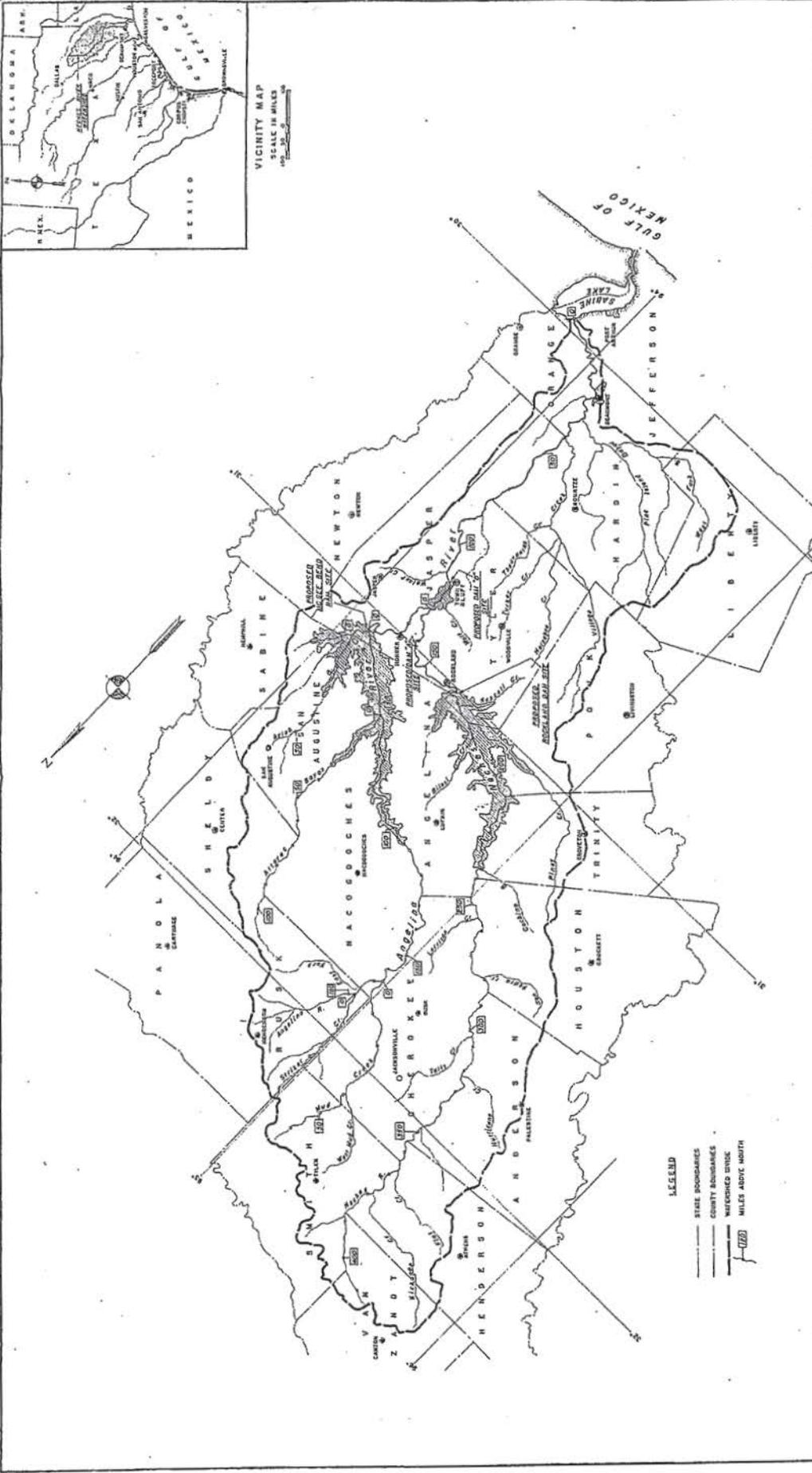
A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott Hall". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Scott Hall, P.E.
General Manager

Map Document

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**Neches Basin Map from Definite Project Report on Neches and
Angelina Rivers Texas Project Vol 1.pdf**



NECHES RIVER BASIN, TEXAS
PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT
 NECHES AND ANGELINA RIVERS, TEXAS

PROJECT LOCATION

SCALE 1:50,000
 U.S. ENGINEER OFFICE
 GALVESTON, TEXAS

DATE	NOV 1917
BY	W. H. HARRIS
CHECKED BY	W. H. HARRIS
APPROVED BY	W. H. HARRIS
FOR	GENERAL ENGINEER PROJECT
NO.	104-101
REV.	SN-152

VICINITY MAP
 SCALE IN MILES
 0 1 2 3 4 5

SCALE IN MILES
 0 1 2 3 4 5

LEGEND

- STATE BOUNDARIES
- COUNTY BOUNDARIES
- MAJOR ROADS
- MILES ABOVE MOUTH

Additional Proposal Information

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LNVA Endorsement.pdf

Judge Jeff R. Branick
Co-Director

Sheriff Zena Stephens
Co-Director



Michael R. White
EMC

Robert Grimm
Deputy EMC

JEFFERSON COUNTY
Office Of Emergency Management
And Homeland Security

To: Whom It May Concern
From: Michael R. White, EMC, Jefferson County
Re: Lower Neches Valley USACE Flood Risk Management Study
Date: August 20, 2019

As Jefferson County Emergency Management Coordinator I am writing to support The LNVA application to authorize a flood risk management study of the Neches River Basin in Southeast Texas. There is a great need to identify opportunities to reduce flooding throughout the area simply based on recent and past flooding occurrences.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael R. White", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael R. White, EMC
Jefferson County
Office of Emergency Management
And Homeland Security
1149 Pearl Street 1st Floor
Beaumont, Texas 77701
(409) 835-8757 Office
(409) 835-8767 Fax
<http://co.jefferson.tx.us/em.htm>
www.jeffcolepc.org

Additional Proposal Information

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Jasper County USACE Flood Study Letter - Aug 2019.pdf



Mark W. Allen
County Judge
Jasper County, Texas

Colonel Timothy R. Vail
Commanding Officer Galveston District
United States Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

RE: Support for the Lower Neches Valley's request for a USACE Flood Risk Management Study in the 2019 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development

Dear Colonel Vail:

Please accept this letter of support for the Lower Neches Valley Authority's desire to enter into a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a Flood Risk Management Study to identify opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding for citizens and industry along the Neches River Basin in Texas.

Currently, there are no flood risk management projects on the Neches River. Flooding on the Neches River has become almost an annual event. The worst flooding was seen during Hurricane Harvey, when more than 50 inches of rain resulted in almost 92,000 homes being flooded in Jefferson and Orange Counties. There was more than a billion dollars in damage in Jefferson County alone, with the loss of 17 lives. During Harvey, the Neches River at Evadale recorded its second highest level ever recorded since 1884, which caused a portion of the Highway 96 bridge over Village Creek near Lumberton to collapse due to the flooding. The prolonged misery from Hurricane Harvey peaked with the loss of the Beaumont municipal water system that left residents lacking running water, unable to flush toilets, desperate for basic sanitation, and fearful for their health.

It is my understanding that the purpose of the USACE study would be to perform a basin-wide assessment of the Neches River Basin to determine possible engineered projects to help eliminate or mitigate the threats from flood events. The study would be related to the USACE's mission to reduce the risks from natural disasters and energize the economy.

Please give every consideration to the Lower Neches Valley Authority's request to have their proposal for a Flood Risk Management Study included in the 2019 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development. Thank you for all that USACE does for the citizens of Texas.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark W. Allen", is written over a horizontal line.

Mark W. Allen, County Judge
Jasper County, Texas

Additional Proposal Information

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HARDIN COUNTY



Wayne McDaniel
COUNTY JUDGE

300 West Monroe Street
Kountze, Texas 77625
(409) 246-5120
Wayne.McDaniel@Co.Hardin.TX.US

August 1, 2019

Colonel Timothy R. Vail
Commanding Officer Galveston District
United States Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

RE: Support for the Lower Neches Valley's request for a USACE Flood Risk Management Study in the 2019 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development

Dear Colonel Vail:

As County Judge of Hardin County, I am writing you today in support of the Lower Neches Valley Authority's application to authorize a flood risk management study of the Neches River Basin in Texas. I know there is a significant need to identify opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding to landowners and industry along the Neches River that can be accomplished in an environmentally sustainable way.

Currently, there are no flood risk management projects on the Neches River. Flooding on the Neches River has become almost an annual event. The worst flooding was seen during Hurricane Harvey, when more than 50 inches of rain resulted in almost 97,000 homes being flooded in Hardin, Jefferson and Orange Counties. There was more than a billion dollars in damage in Jefferson County alone, with the loss of 17 lives. During Harvey, the Neches River at Evadale recorded its second highest level ever recorded since 1884, which caused a portion of the US Highway 96 Bridge over Village Creek near Silsbee to collapse due to the flooding. The prolonged misery from Hurricane Harvey peaked with the loss of the Beaumont municipal water system that left residents lacking running water, unable to flush toilets, desperate for basic sanitation, and fearful for their health.

I respectfully urge your agency to select this project as part of the "US Army Corps of Engineers 2019 Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development" authorization.

Thank you for your consideration. Feel free to contact me any time should you wish to discuss.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "W. McDaniel", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wayne McDaniel
COUNTY JUDGE

Additional Proposal Information

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SUPPORT FOR THE LOWER NECHES VALLEY.pdf



JEFF R. BRANICK
County Judge

Jefferson County Courthouse
P.O. Box 4025
Beaumont, TX 77704

Beaumont (409) 835-8466
Pt. Arthur (409) 727-2191 Ext. 8466
Facsimile (409) 839-2311

August 15, 2019

Colonel Timothy R. Vail
Commanding Officer Galveston District
United States Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

RE: Support for the Lower Neches Valley's request for a USACE Flood Risk Management Study in the 2019 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development

Dear Colonel Vail:

As Jefferson County Judge, I write in support of the Lower Neches Valley Authority's application to authorize a flood risk management study of the Neches River Basin in Texas. I know that there is a significant need to identify opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding to landowners and industry along the Neches River that can be accomplished in an environmentally sustainable way.

Currently, there are no flood risk management projects on the Neches River. Flooding on the Neches River has become almost an annual event. The worst flooding was seen during Hurricane Harvey, when more than 50 inches of rain resulted in almost 92,000 homes being flooded in Jefferson and Orange Counties. There was more than a billion dollars in damage in Jefferson County alone, with the loss of 17 lives. During Harvey, the Neches River at Evadale recorded its second highest level ever recorded since 1884, which caused a portion of the Highway 69 Bridge over Village Creek near Silsbee to collapse due to the flooding. The prolonged misery from Hurricane Harvey peaked with the loss of the Beaumont municipal water system that left residents lacking running water, unable to flush toilets, desperate for basic sanitation, and fearful for their health.

I urge your agency to select this project as part of the "US Army Corps of Engineers 2019 Annual Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development" authorization.

If you have any questions, please contact me at richard.schulhof@arboretum.org, or by phone at 626.821.3231. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Additional Proposal Information

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**Port of Beaumont Letter of Support- LNVA Flood Risk
Management Study.pdf**



Colonel Timothy R. Vail
Commanding Officer Galveston District
United States Army Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

RE: Support for the Lower Neches Valley Authority's request for inclusion of a USACE Flood Risk Management Study in the 2019 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development

Dear Colonel Vail:

Please accept this letter of support for the Lower Neches Valley Authority's desire to enter into a partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a Flood Risk Management Study. The study will serve to identify opportunities to reduce the risk of flooding for citizens and industry along the Neches River Basin in Texas.

Currently, there are no flood risk management projects on the Neches River. Flooding on the Neches River has become almost an annual event. The worst flooding was seen during Hurricane Harvey, when more than 50 inches of rain caused approximately 92,000 homes to flood in Jefferson and Orange Counties. It is estimated that the storm caused more than \$1 billion in damages in Jefferson County alone. During Harvey, the Neches River at Evadale recorded its second highest level since record-keeping began in 1884. The increased water levels caused a portion of the Highway 69 bridge, over Village Creek near Silsbee, to collapse due to the flooding. The impact of Hurricane Harvey peaked with the loss of the Beaumont municipal water system, which left residents without running water, unable to flush toilets, desperate for basic sanitation, and fearful for their health.

It is our understanding that the purpose of the USACE study would be to perform a basin-wide assessment of the Neches River Basin to identify projects that would help eliminate or mitigate damages from flood events. The study would be related to the USACE's mission to reduce the risks from natural disasters and energize the economy.

We are appreciative of the work the USACE does and hope you will strongly consider the Lower Neches Valley Authority's request to have their proposal for a Flood Risk Management Study included in the 2019 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development.

Sincerely,

David C. Fisher
Port Director & CEO