



COUNTY OF ARANSAS

Office of the County Judge
301 North Live Oak
Rockport, Texas 78382

C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.
County Judge

TEL (361) 790-0100
FAX (361) 727-2043

December 1, 2009

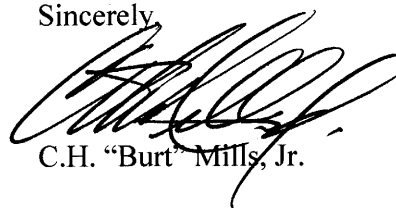
Via FedEx Overnight Delivery

Office of U.S. Congressman Ron Paul
Attn: Tom Lizardo, Chief of Staff
Room 203 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

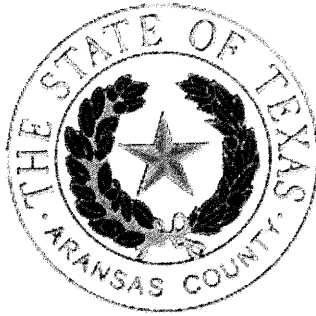
Dear Tom:

This letter contains the information needed from Aransas County to submit its WRDA 2010 Project Request including attached related and supporting documentation. As a special note, it would seem to me that the Cedar Bayou project is just as vital and important as the San Bernard River project that was re-opened.

Sincerely,



C.H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.



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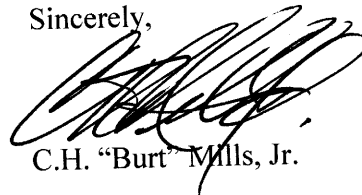
December 1, 2009

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
Attn: James L. Oberstar, Chairman and
John Mica, Ranking Member
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Oberstar and Member Mica:

This letter shall serve as Aransas County's official letter for the WRDA 2010 Project Request, and the attached information is submitted for your consideration.

Sincerely,



C.H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.

Attachments

WRDA 2010

Question 1 – General Information:

The purpose of the project is to restore the historical hydraulic connection between Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough and the connection to the Gulf of Mexico. Historical navigation charts from the 1800s and aerial photography from the 1900s show that a dynamically sustainable hydraulic connection between Cedar Bayou and Vinson Slough and the Gulf existed up to the 1979 emergency closure of the passes. Dredging projects in 1987 and 1995 have sought to restore the opening of the passes without long term success. This project is critical to the Whooping Cranes, commercial fishing, recreational fishing and human safety, and the economy of Aransas County.

Question 2 – Congressional Office Staff Information:

Staff Contact: Tom Lizardo, Chief of Staff
U.S. Representative Ron Paul

Staff Phone: (202) 226-8258

Staff email: Tom.Lizardo@Mail.House.Gov

Question 3 – Corps Information:

Corps District: Galveston, Texas

Corps Contact: Denise Sloan, Regulatory Manager
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Galveston District
P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, Texas 77553

Corps Phone: 409-766-3947

Question 4 – Project Location:

Project Location: City: Rockport
County: Aransas/Calhoun Counties
State: Texas

Question 5 – Non-fed Sponsor:

Name of Non-federal Sponsor: Aransas County

Name of Non-fed Contact: C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr., County Judge

Non-federal Sponsor Phone: 361-790-0100

Non-federal Sponsor Address: Aransas County
301 N. Live Oak
Rockport, Texas 78382

Question 6 – Project Details:

Project Purposes: The purpose of this project is to restore the historic hydraulic connection between Cedar Bayou and the Gulf of Mexico to restore a historical fish pass as a route for migrating marine species and subsequently improve the fisheries of Mesquite Bay and the surrounding 7 bays systems. This project is not intended as a navigation channel. Cedar Bayou, when open, serves as a connection between Mesquite Bay and the Gulf. This connection is used by marine species of economic importance to the area. The populations of blue crabs which are critical for the Whooping Cranes to continue to exist, red drum, brown, white and pink shrimp, southern flounder and striped mullet use the tidal movement through the passes to carry the post larval forms from the Gulf spawning areas to the inland bay nurseries.

Project description: The descriptions of functionality of the major design elements of the proposed project are given below.

The Cedar Bayou channel is to be dredged as a straight channel connecting upper Cedar Bayou with the Gulf of Mexico. Without dredging the Cedar Bayou channel, the hydraulic connection between the Gulf and Cedar Bayou cannot maintain itself and will be lost. The straight channel cut is important to reduce hydraulic resistance. A meandering or bending channel increases the hydraulic resistance and, therefore, reduces channel stability. The dimensions of the channel were optimized with results from numerical modeling to find a balance between a flow rate that would self-scour the channel layout with minimum footprint, dredging volume, and impact to surrounding habitat.

Vinson Slough: The hydraulic analyses showed that the connection of Vinson Slough to Cedar Bayou is critical for Cedar Bayou to maintain itself as a self-scouring, stable channel. When Vinson Slough is connected to Cedar Bayou, it increases the velocity—especially the ebb velocity at the mouth of the inlet—which aids in channel stability by flushing the mouth of sediment. Also, the Vinson Slough channel, when connected to Cedar Bayou, will re-introduce flow into the Vinson Slough marsh system which was cut off from its connection to the Gulf of Mexico and Cedar Bayou after the 1979 closer and, further, after the 1995 dredging project.

Authorization Amount Requested: \$5,000,000

Miscellaneous Information:

Are there multiple Members of Congress requesting this project?:

Letter of Support from Non-federal Sponsor: Attached



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TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

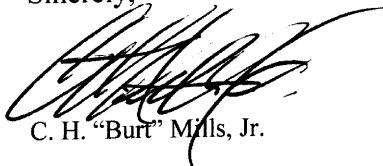
This letter is in support of Aransas County's WRDA 2010 Project Request. The county's submission of this project request is of vital importance in restoring the historic hydraulic connection between Cedar Bayou and the Gulf of Mexico to restore a significantly historical fish pass as a route for migrating marine species and ultimately improve the fisheries of Mesquite Bay and the surrounding seven bay systems.

The pass at present is a trickle of its former self, threatening everything from whooping cranes and the crabs they eat to shrimp and fishes. Many marine organisms rely on gulf access for spawning. Increasing the flow through Cedar Bayou would benefit the water quality and general productivity of the Aransas Mesquite, San Antonio, Copano, St. Charles, and Redfish estuaries while helping to preserve the economy and quality of life within a region that derives so much from a healthy fishery. The proposed project clearly should be viewed as an environmental restoration effort and an economic preservation issue.

Cedar Bayou is part of an ecosystem that is of vital importance to our local and state economy. The pass provides for flow of estuarine waters to the Gulf and allows tidal waters to flow into the bay systems. The pass serves as a migration route for finfish and shellfish between the Gulf and bays. Many species, include blue crabs, shrimp, flounder and red drum, at some stage in their life cycle migrate outward from the bays to the Gulf, spawn, and their young return to the estuaries inside the bays.

Cedar Bayou is extremely important to Aransas County, and we would **strongly** urge your favorable consideration of Aransas County's submission of the WRDA 2010 project request.

Sincerely,



C. H. "Burt" Mills, Jr.