

Colonel David Dake
Commanding Officer
Galveston District
United States Army Corps of Engineers
2000 Fort Point Road
Galveston, Texas 77550-1229

RE: Support for the Matagorda Ship Channel Improvement Project Proposal under WRDA
Section 7001 to Address the Section 902 Cost Limit

Dear Colonel Dake:

Please accept this letter of support for the Calhoun Port Authority's proposal pursuant to WRDA Section 7001 for additional authorization to address the Section 902 Cost Limit for the Matagorda Ship Channel Improvement Project (MSCIP) authorized by Section 401(1)(8) of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 (P.L. 116-260).

Congress has taken great interest in the MSCIP and recognizes the vital role it plays in the economic prosperity and energy security of our nation. Deepening and widening of the MSCIP would not only produce over \$1 billion in growth for the region and more than 1,000 new jobs but would also alleviate significant safety concerns. The channel is considered one of the most dangerous in the nation. Currently, the Matagorda Ship Channel is the shallowest and narrowest "deep draft" channel in the United States and it has not had any improvements for safety or for increased vessel size since its construction in 1966. It is imperative that these improvements be made. Delays in implementing the project have already resulted in lost opportunities for the Calhoun Port Authority.

It is critical that the additional authorization is included in the Water Resources Development Act of 2026 to not further delay implementation of this much needed project. It is for this reason that Congress has stressed the importance of the MSCIP by including Sec. 1223 in the Thomas R. Carper Water Resources Development Act of 2024. It is the intent of Congress that the MSCIP be expedited to overcome the significant delays the project has faced, and we thank the USACE for how they have worked with the Calhoun Port Authority to accelerate the schedule for the SEIS.

Please give every consideration to Calhoun Port Authority's request to have their proposal to address the Section 902 Cost Limit for the Matagorda Ship Channel Improvement included in the 2026 Section 7001 Report to Congress on Future Water Resources Development. Thank you for all that USACE does for the citizens along the Texas Coast.

Sincerely,

Local City, Industry