
CITY OF PORT LAVACA

PORT COMMISSION MEETING: OCTOBER 17, 2023

DATE: 10.15.2023

TO: PORT COMMISSION BOARD MEMBERS CC: JIM RUDELLAT, HARBOR MASTER

FROM: JODY WEAVER, INTERIM CITY MANAGER

SUBJECT: CDBG-MIT Coastal Resiliency Project

Attached is a copy of the Mott McDonald Monthly Progress Report for August and September 2023. On the Projects Transparency page of the City's website, you will find a copy of the REVIEW SET of the 30% Design drawings and Technical Memorandum under "Living Shoreline Breakwater" project. For your convenience following is the link:

https://cleargov.com/texas/calhoun/city/port-lavaca/projects/7897/living-shoreline-breakwater-_glo-cdbg_mit-coastal-resiliency-grant

Below are comments from Joshua Carter regarding the expressed concern over the reduced protection. We are trying to set up a meeting where Raymond Butler can be in attendance to discuss this further.

"We will need to bring in our regulatory expert to comment on what happens with the potential for mitigation. In my experience, mitigation is a real bear, and I would generally strongly recommend avoiding if at all possible. If mitigation is required, permittee becomes accountable for the success of mitigation, which means things need to grow, usually on the order a ratio of mitigation:impacted area of 3:1 to 15:1 of the area impacted (ratios can vary depending on lots of factors; up to the regulators to specify). It is hard to control what grows. The permittee is liable for the success of mitigation, and if mitigation doesn't work you have to keep at it until it does. Mitigation requires a commitment for monitoring the mitigation until it is deemed successful. That typically includes monitoring at a frequency and duration approved by the resource agencies – typically a few times per year for at least 5 years. And that assumes they would even approve a permit to impact a live oyster reef; they may not. There may be other options for mitigation that we can consider (eg: expanding the existing oyster reef by adding cultch over an area to help the reef expand, or similar). I'm not sure if the grant funds can pay for that component, will need to talk with KSBR on that."

I would like to know specifically what are the areas of concern with the shorten breakwater and what we are protecting from, so we can think about configuring a solution in a way to provide the protection. We have a few other geometries we considered, but they are longer and in deeper water, meaning more material quantity. That may be able to be offset by lowering the overall breakwater, but lowering the breakwater reduced protection from larger storms."

I believe we will be able to meet with the COE in November, probably in the second half of the month."

- Joshua Carter, P.E.

- Ports and Coastal Portfolio Manager, Mott McDonald