



COUNTY COMMISSION

BALDWIN COUNTY
312 Courthouse Square, Suite 12
BAY MINETTE, ALABAMA 36507
(251) 937-0264
Fax (251) 580-2500
www.baldwincountyal.gov

MEMBERS
DISTRICT 1. JAMES E. BALL
2. MATTHEW P. MCKENZIE
3. BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD
4. CHARLES F. GRUBER

March 19, 2024

Colonel Jeremy J. Chapman, P.E.
Commander, Mobile District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
ATTN: CESAM-PD-FP
Post Office Box 2288
Mobile, Alabama 36628-0001

RE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continuing Authorities Program Shoreline Erosion Study for Northern Shoreline of Fort Morgan in Baldwin County, Alabama

Dear Colonel Chapman:

The Baldwin County Commission is requesting assistance from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for a study and design under the USACE Continuing Authorities Program to address beach erosion, provide hurricane storm damage reduction and aquatic ecosystem restoration, along with the possible beneficial use of dredge material at Fort Morgan, Alabama. The proposed project location is situated on the north side of the Fort Morgan peninsula, bounded by the Fort Morgan Historic Site on the west and Oyster Bay to the east.

Fort Morgan is an unincorporated community just west of Gulf Shores, Alabama. This area has a long and rich history as home to Fort Morgan, which served as a defensive point for Mobile Bay starting in the early 19th century. Fort Morgan is also home to the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, which works to protect endangered and native species in Coastal Alabama. The refuge encompasses some of Alabama's last remaining undisturbed coastal barrier habitat, including beach dunes and rolling pine-oak woodlands.

Over the years, the Fort Morgan peninsula has been affected by various factors such as sea-level rise, severe storms, ship-wake induced erosion, real estate development and even oil spills. These activities have impacted hundreds of acres of salt marsh, resulting in a sediment budget deficit that hinders the transport of littoral sand needed for the area's renourishment.

The Baldwin County Commission intends to serve as the sponsor for the project. We understand that the estimated cost of the feasibility study would be prepared following a determination of federal interest. We further understand that a Federal Interest Determination (FID) report shall be prepared following the initial investigation by USACE.

Colonel Jeremy J. Chapman, P.E.

March 19, 2024

Page 2 of 2

We are aware that the first \$100,000 in funding for the feasibility study is fully federally funded and that any further study costs above that would need to be approved by the County Commission and 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 study. We look forward to executing a cost-sharing agreement for the study at the appropriate time in the process. Thank you for your assistance with this much-needed project.

Please contact Ashley Campbell, Natural Resources Planner, by email at ashley.campbell@baldwincountyal.gov or by phone at (251) 423-3632 for further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Billie Jo Underwood". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

BILLIE JO UNDERWOOD, Chairman
Baldwin County Commission

BJU/jb Item CS1

cc: Jay Dickson
Ashley Campbell
planning@baldwincountyal.gov