



STATE OF ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

POST OFFICE DRAWER 458  
GULF SHORES, ALABAMA 36547  
TEL (251) 968-7576  
FAX (251) 968-7307  
marine.resources@dcnr.alabama.gov



M. Scott Bannon  
Director  
MARINE RESOURCES DIVISION

Kay Ivey  
GOVERNOR

*Our mission is to manage the State's marine fishery resources through research, enforcement, and education for the maximum benefit of the resources and the citizens of Alabama.*

Christopher M. Blankenship  
COMMISSIONER

Edward F. Poolos  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

February 2, 2024

Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee  
Environmental Advisory Committee Chair Brett Gaar  
Palmer Street  
Bay Minette, AL 36507

EAC Committee Chair Gaar:

We understand that the Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) is seeking a Letter of Support for a request to the USACE for a study, 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, Baldwin County, 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 destroyed 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.

We are in support of the EAC's request to the Baldwin County Commission to serve as the sponsor for the study. We understand that there is no financial commitment for our entity for this project. Thank you for your assistance with this much-needed project.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 251-223-1218 or [scott.bannon@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:scott.bannon@dcnr.alabama.gov)

Sincerely,

M. Scott Bannon, Director  
Alabama Marine Resources Division



STATE OF ALABAMA  
**DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES**  
64 NORTH UNION STREET, SUITE 464  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

KAY IVEY  
GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER M. BLANKENSHIP  
COMMISSIONER

EDWARD F. POOLOS  
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

**STATE LANDS DIVISION**  
PATRICIA POWELL MCCURDY  
DIRECTOR

JAMES DOUGLAS DEATON, JR.  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

TELEPHONE (334) 242-3484  
FAX (334) 242-0999

March 11, 2024

Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee  
Environmental Advisory Committee Chair Brett Gaar  
Palmer Street  
Bay Minette, AL 36507

Re: Re: Letter of Support

EAC Committee Chair Gaar:

We understand that the Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) is seeking a Letter of Support for a request to the USACE for a study, 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, Baldwin County, 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.

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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 events, which adversely impacted salt marsh acreage, contribute to a need for further evaluation.

We are in support of the EAC's request to the Baldwin County Commission to serve as the sponsor for the study. We understand that there is no financial commitment for our entity for this project. Thank you for your assistance with this much-needed project.

Please feel free to contact me by email at [patti.mccurdy@dcnr.alabama.gov](mailto:patti.mccurdy@dcnr.alabama.gov) or by phone at 334-242-3848 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patricia Powell McCurdy".

Patricia Powell McCurdy  
State Lands Director





# ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Lisa D. Jones  
Executive Director  
State Historic Preservation Officer

468 South Perry Street  
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

Tel: 334-242-3184  
Fax: 334-242-1083

February 7, 2024

Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee  
Environmental Advisory Committee Chair Brett Gaar  
Palmer Street  
Bay Minette, AL 36507

EAC Committee Chair Gaar:

We understand that the Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) is seeking a Letter of Support for a request to the USACE for a study, 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, Baldwin County, 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.

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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 destroyed 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.

We are in support of the EAC's request to the Baldwin County Commission to serve as the sponsor for the study. We understand that there is no financial commitment for our entity for this project. Thank you for your assistance with this much-needed project.

Please contact Heather Tassin, by email at [heather.tassin1@ahc.alabama.gov](mailto:heather.tassin1@ahc.alabama.gov) or by phone at 251-540-5257 for further information or assistance.

With highest regard,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "HTassin".

Heather Tassin  
Site Director  
Fort Morgan State Historic Site

**ALABAMA  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**



**Kay Ivey  
GOVERNOR**

SOUTHWEST REGION  
OFFICE OF REGION ENGINEER  
1701 I-65 WEST SERVICE ROAD NORTH  
MOBILE, ALABAMA 36618-1109  
TELEPHONE: (251) 470-8200  
FAX: (251) 473-3624



**John R. Cooper  
TRANSPORTATION DIRECTOR**

February 29, 2024

Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee  
Environmental Advisory Committee Chair Brett Gaar  
22251 Palmer Street  
Robertsdale, AL 36567

EAC Committee Chair Gaar:

We understand that the Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) is seeking a Letter of Support from the Alabama Department of Transportation for a request to the USACE for a study, 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, Baldwin County, 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.

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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 destroyed 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. These factors have generated concerns for the Department regarding the current and future integrity of State Highway 180 and the safety of the traveling public that travel this roadway daily in these compromised locations where erosion threatens the highway.

The Department is in support of the EAC's request to the Baldwin County Commission to serve as the sponsor for the study. We understand that there is no financial commitment for our entity for this project. Thank you for your assistance with this much-needed project.

Feel free to contact me at 251-470-8200 or by email at [ericksenm@dot.state.al.us](mailto:ericksenm@dot.state.al.us) for further information or assistance.

With highest regard,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Ericksen" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew J. Ericksen, PE  
Southwest Region Engineer

MJE/bsa  
c: File



November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023

Fort Morgan Civic Association  
P.O. Box 5313  
Gulf Shores, AL 36542

RE: USACE Erosion Study

Honorable Members of the Baldwin County Commission,

Its undeniable that erosion is steadily wearing on the North shore of the Fort Morgan peninsula. This ongoing erosion continues to threaten private and public property as well as utilities and roadways. In the October 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Commission, I understood Commissioner Gruber to state that Baldwin County staff has been working with the US Army Corps of Engineers regarding a study of the circulation, currents, tides, and other factors contributing to the continued erosion of the shorelines along Mobile and Bon Secour Bay.

The Fort Morgan Civic Association supports and encourages the Baldwin County Commission to pursue this study by USACE in the interest of preserving the Northern shoreline of District 25.

Thank you for your consideration and support

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'Joe Emerson', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Joe Emerson, President  
Fort Morgan Civic Association



# MOBILE BAY NATIONAL ESTUARY PROGRAM

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February 1, 2024

Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee  
Environmental Advisory Committee Chair Brett Gaar  
22251 Palmer St.  
Robertsdale, AL 36567

Dear Mr. Gaar,

I am writing on behalf of the Mobile Bay National Estuary Program (MBNEP) to express support for the Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee's (EAC) request to the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for an assessment and strategy to mitigate shoreline erosion along the northern shore of the Fort Morgan Peninsula in Baldwin County. The MBNEP is guided by a Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP) created collaboratively by Management Conference partners based on local input and supporting local priorities with five-year strategies to protect and restore the quality and ecological integrity of Alabama's estuarine waters.

Over the years, the Fort Morgan Peninsula has been affected by various stressors such as sea level rise, severe storms, ship-wake induced erosion, real estate development, and even oil spills. Shoreline erosion was one of the primary issues of concern identified during the development of the Bon Secour River Watershed Management Plan (WMP) and the WMP specifically recommended seeking opportunities for implementing nature-based solutions for stabilizing and enhancing this critical stretch of the shoreline. This project also directly addresses CCMP objectives ERP-2, *Implement comprehensive watershed management plans with a focus on priority habitats*, and ERP-3, *Improve ecosystem function and resilience through protection, restoration, and conservation along shorelines of coastal Alabama beaches, bays, and backwaters*.

The MBNEP offers its support for the EAC's request to the Baldwin County Commission to sponsor this study. I am available at 251-380-7940 or [rswann@mobilebaynep.com](mailto:rswann@mobilebaynep.com) should you wish to discuss this proposal or project further.

Sincerely,

Roberta Swann  
Director





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## Coastal Research & Extension Center

EAC Committee Chair Gaar:

I understand that the Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) is seeking a Letter of Support for a request to the USACE for a study, 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, Baldwin County, 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.

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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 altered the shoreline and nearshore areas, resulting in erosion.

I am in support of the EAC's request to the Baldwin County Commission to serve as the sponsor for the study. I understand that there is no financial commitment for our entity for this project. Thank you for your assistance with this much-needed project.

Please contact me by email at [eric.sparks@msstate.edu](mailto:eric.sparks@msstate.edu) or by phone at 228-388-4710 for further information or assistance.

Sincerely,

**Eric Sparks, Ph.D.**

Director of Coastal and Marine Extension; Associate Extension Professor - **Mississippi State University**

Director – **Mississippi Sound Estuary Program**

Assistant Director for Outreach; Coastal Ecology Specialist - **Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant**

Phone: 228-546-1025; Email: [eric.sparks@msstate.edu](mailto:eric.sparks@msstate.edu)

Website: <https://ccrlab.org/>

Address: Coastal Research and Extension Center, 1815 Popp's Ferry Rd., Biloxi, MS 39532

**Mississippi State University, United States Department of Agriculture, Counties Cooperating**

1815 Popp's Ferry Rd • Biloxi, MS 39532 • Phone (228) 388-4710 • Fax (228) 388-1375

We are an equal opportunity employer, and all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability status, protected veteran status, or any other characteristic protected by law.

February 9, 2024

Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee  
Environmental Advisory Committee Chair Brett Gaar  
Palmer Street  
Bay Minette, AL 36507

EAC Committee Chair Gaar:

The Nature Conservancy (TNC) is happy to provide a Letter of Support to the Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) for a request to the USACE for a study, 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, Baldwin County, 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.

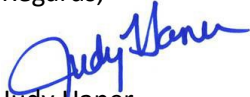
Fort Morgan is an unincorporated community just west of Gulf Shores, Alabama. This area has a long and rich history as home to Fort Morgan, which served as a defensive point for Mobile Bay starting in the early 19th century. Fort Morgan is also home to the Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, and TNC has long helped acquire lands for the Refuge that support the protection of endangered and native species. 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 destroyed 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. TNC has worked with several private landowners on living shoreline project on the Fort Morgan Peninsula to address erosion issues.

We are in support of the EAC's request to the Baldwin County Commission to serve as the sponsor for the study. We understand that there is no financial commitment for our entity for this project. Thank you for your assistance with this much-needed project.

Please contact me by email at [jhaner@tnc.org](mailto:jhaner@tnc.org) or by phone at 251.281.4022 for further information or assistance.

Regards,



Judy Haner  
Coastal Programs Director  
The Nature Conservancy



# United States Department of the Interior

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE  
1208-B Main Street  
Daphne, Alabama 36526

**FEB 16 2024**

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee  
Environmental Advisory Committee Chair Brett Gaar  
Palmer Street  
Bay Minette, AL 36507

EAC Committee Chair, Brett Gaar:

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service understands that the Baldwin County Environmental Advisory Committee (EAC) is seeking a Letter of Support for a request to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a study, 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, Baldwin County, 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.

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We are in support of the EAC's request to the Baldwin County Commission to serve as the sponsor for the study. We understand that there is no financial commitment for our entity for this project. Thank you for your assistance with this much-needed project.

For further discussion, please contact Patric Harper of my staff at (228) 475-0765 x105 or at [patric\\_harper@fws.gov](mailto:patric_harper@fws.gov).

Sincerely,

William J. Pearson  
Field Supervisor  
Alabama Ecological Services Field Office