



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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News Release

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Corps of Engineers, Texas City sign Project Partnership Agreement

Officials of the City of Texas City and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District signed a Project Partnership Agreement today in a ceremony in Texas City. Taking part in the signing were Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander, and Texas City Mayor Matthew T. Doyle. The Project Partnership Agreement is for the deepening of the Texas City Ship Channel from 40 to 45 feet, which will improve the navigational efficiency and safety of the existing channel for movement of commerce and national security needs, according to Weston.

"The Project Partnership Agreement helps us achieve our mission of keeping the Texas coastal waterways open for navigation," said Col. Weston, "contributing to both the economic wellbeing of local communities and the security of our nation. This is an important milestone in the history of this project."

A Project Partnership Agreement is the legally binding document between the Federal Government (the Army Corps of Engineers) and a project sponsor to outline the cost sharing dollar amounts as well as the responsibilities of both the Corps of Engineers and the sponsor throughout the construction of the project

The Texas City Channel, which was first authorized by Congress in 1913, is a Federal deep draft navigation project serving the Port of Texas City in Galveston County, according to Sharon Tirpak, Corps of Engineers Project Manager.

"This project consists of a main channel connecting a turning basin at the port to the Gulf of Mexico through Bolivar roads, a part of the Houston Ship Channel," she said. "The main channel is 40 feet deep, 400 feet wide, and about 6.8 miles long. This 40-foot channel was completed in June 1967."

In addition to deepening the channel, the project will involve incidental widening. This deepening and widening is expected to generate annual benefits of \$28,058,000 with annual cost of \$3,309,000, producing a benefit-cost ratio of 8.5.

An added benefit will be the opportunity for the dredged material from deepening the channel, as well as maintenance material from the channel, to be used beneficially. About 1000 acres of emergent marsh will be created as part of the project, according to Weston.

"Using dredged material beneficially adds another positive element to this critical project," Weston said, "expanding the advantages to the local community. It is a winning situation from every aspect."



From left, Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander, Sharon Tirpak, Project Manager, and Mayor Matthew T. Doyle, Texas City Mayor, participate in the Project Partnership Agreement signing in Texas City.