



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**

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Galveston District to undertake project to reopen mouth of San Bernard River

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Galveston District is planning a set of alternatives for a project to reopen the mouth of the San Bernard River. The Corps is pursuing this project under its authorities to maintain safe waterways for commercial navigation. The mouth of the river has almost closed at the Gulf of Mexico because of sand accretion, and the resulting blockage has diverted the water flow into the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway eastward, exiting through the Brazos River flood gates. The increased water velocity there has caused unsafe conditions for commercial navigation.

The Galveston District has formed a project delivery team and is now starting to put together a formal plan and schedule, according to Colonel David C. Weston, Galveston District commander.

“We are looking at several channel width and depth alternatives to reopen the mouth of the San Bernard River near its historical location,” he said. “Our intent is to find an affordable solution that reduces the flow velocity through the Brazos River flood gates, mitigating the risks to commercial navigation.

“Additionally, this project gives us the opportunity to be part of an initiative that adds to the well being of our Texas coastal communities,” he said, “contributing to our goal of supporting our Nation.”

The cost of the plan, and the available funding this fiscal year for operations and maintenance of the Gulf Intercoastal Waterway, will determine the timeline for execution of the project.

“The Corps is working in concert with the local sponsor, the Texas Department of Transportation, and all relevant governmental agencies to find that affordable solution,” Weston said. “We hope to have a contract award by the end of the fiscal year, with the actual work beginning shortly thereafter.”