



HARTE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

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October 2 2025

Steven J. Raabe, P.E.
Trustee, Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust
PO Box 1269
Poth, TX 78147-1269

RE: Quarterly Progress Report for the period 7/1/2025 – 9/30/2025.

Dear Mr. Raabe,

Please find enclosed the following deliverable: Quarterly Progress Report for the project
“Sediment Quality Assessment Survey of San Antonio Bay” Contract No. 035.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Montagna", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Paul A. Montagna, Ph.D.
Endowed Chair, Hydroecology, Harte Research Institute
Professor, Physical and Environmental Science Department
Regents Professor, Texas A&M University System
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5869
Corpus Christi, TX 78412
Phone: 361-825-2040
Email: Paul.Montagna@tamucc.edu

I. TITLE, CONTRACT INFORMATION, AND CONTACTS:

Sediment Quality Assessment Survey of San Antonio Bays

Contract 035

Performing Party Representative:

Dr. Paul A. Montagna
Harte Research Institute for Gulf of Mexico Studies
Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5869
Corpus Christi, TX 78412-5869
Telephone: 361-825-2040
Email: Paul.Montagna@tamucc.edu

Contract Period: 01 January 2023 – 31 December 2025

Reporting Period: 01 July 2025 to 30 September 2025
Date of submission: 2 October 2025

SUBMITTED TO:

Steven J. Raabe, P.E.
Trustee, Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust
PO Box 1269
Poth, TX 78147-1269
Via Email to: Trustee@mbmTrust.com

II. DESCRIPTION OF TASKS:

There are two tasks for this project:

Task 1): Sediment Quality Triad (SQT) analysis. 18 stations sampled and analyzed for sediment chemistry, toxicity, and biodiversity.

Task 2): Data Management, Reporting, and Outreach Engagement. Quarterly Progress Reports: within 10 days of the end of each annual quarter: Q1 = April 10, Q2 = July 10, Q3 = October 10, and Q4 = January 10. The Final Report = December 31, 2024. Public engagement.

III. STATUS OF TASKS:

Task 1): In progress.

All samples were collected between 8 May 2023 and 11 May 2023. The sampling subtask is complete.

All 54 samples (=3 replicates at 18 stations) were analyzed for sediment chemistry and the dataset was created. The chemistry subtask component is complete.

Three estuarine species (grass shrimp *Paleomon pugio*, amphipod *Leptochirus plumulosus*, and polychaete *Neanthes arenaceodentata*) were exposed to all 18 sediments and assessed for survivability, and the dataset was created. A Mictrox solid phase assessment and ammonia test was conducted simultaneously to detect factors of toxicity for each site if they were not seen in the other tests, and these datasets were completed. The toxicology analysis is complete, and this subtask is complete.

Benthic diversity analyses were completed for the remaining 40 samples out of 90 (=5 replicates at 18 stations) were completed. The benthic diversity analyses are now complete.

Task 2): In progress.

Eleventh quarterly report submitted.

IV. PLAN FOR NEXT QUARTER:

Task 1): Is complete.

Task 2): Submit a quarterly reporting and work on the data analyses and final report.

V. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED/CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

We have still had delays in billing from the subcontractor NOAA for the toxicology analyses that were performed in 2023. Our plan is to send monthly notices requesting this billing.

We did not make much progress on the data analyses and report writing.

VI. ADHERENCE TO PROJECT TIMELINE:

A. Explanation of delays (if any):

While there have been no delays in accomplishing Task 1, which is the main task to make all the field and laboratory measurements, we have had delays in administering the project and completing the data analysis and report writing. This led us to request a no-cost extension in October 2024, which was approved. However, with the current government shutdown, it is now clear that we will not likely complete this task by the end date is December 31, 2025.

Additionally, we have not made sufficient progress on data analysis and report writing and will need more time to complete these.

The plan is to request another NCE and complete the project by December 2026.

B. Anticipated delays:

Further delays are anticipated because of the current government shutdown.