

October 15, 2024

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

RE: Quarterly Progress Report for the period 7/1/2024 – 9/30/2024.

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,



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](mailto: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  
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Email: [Paul.Montagna@tamucc.edu](mailto:Paul.Montagna@tamucc.edu)

Contract Period: 01 January 2023 – 31 December 2024

Reporting Period: 01 July 2024 to 30 Septmeber 2024  
Date of submission: 29 June 2024

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](mailto: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. Chemistry subtask component is complete.

Three estuarine species (grass shrimp *Paleomon pugio*, amphipod *Leptocheirus 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. 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. This brings the total of samples to 90 and the diversity analyses are now complete.

Task 2): In progress.

Seventh quarterly report submitted.

## **IV. PLAN FOR NEXT QUARTER:**

Task 1): Is complete, no further work on Task 1.

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

## **V. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED/CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:**

We have had delays in billing from the subcontractor NOAA. They have billed only \$4,507 or the budgeted \$102,562.

## **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, particularly billing from NOAA for Task 1. NOAA ascribes this problem to a new billing system.

### **B. Anticipated delays:**

Data analysis and report writing will be delayed and we anticipate needing extra time to accomplish this task. We started this task too late and will not be able to complete it by the projected end date of 31 December 2024. Because NOAA is a partner in this project, they require a minimum of three reviews of all completed products, and this will take additional time as well. We will need a no cost extension to 31 December 2025 to ensure enough time to complete analyses, writing, review, and publication of results.