

Progress Report for Contract # 026
Saving the Integrity of Keller Bay and Sand Point Peninsula

Year 3, 2nd quarter: Jan. 1, 2025

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Project Summary: Our overarching goal is to protect the unique estuarine resources of Keller Bay by stopping the Sand Point Peninsula from breaching. Our strategy is to develop a living shoreline solution that incorporates public and private partners. Specific objectives include to:

- (1) Identify and model the best actions to stop the peninsula from breaching
- (2) Engage a working group, composed of stakeholders and agencies, to help design and identify a preferred action plan
- (3) Produce engineering/design plans and obtain permits for the Sand Engine

Task 1: Identify and model the best actions to stop the peninsula from breaching

Progress this Quarter: All sub-tasks completed in previous quarters, just writing up the results for the final report.

Next Quarter: N/A

Deliverables:

- (1) High resolution topo-bathymetric map of study area – **completed and already submitted.**
- (2) Wave and flow velocity exceedance graphs for living shoreline design criteria – **completed and already submitted.**
- (3) Maps and videos of future morphologic evolution of study area, with and without various living shoreline alternatives, including a single or multiple Sand Engines – **completed and already submitted.**

Task 2: Engage a working group, composed of stakeholders and agencies, to help design and identify a preferred action plan

Progress this Quarter: Our team conducted several online meetings and informal phone calls between our personnel (10/4, 10/8, 10/9, 10/11, 10/20, 10/22, 10/31, 11/1). During these meetings, we discussed: the USACE Joint Evaluation Meeting (JEM), evaluation of the site as requested by the JEM, and completion of the USACE permit submission process.

The team continued to work with the Matagorda Bay Foundation (MBF) to see the project move into a future construction phase, beyond the time of MBMT funding. The TAMU portion of the team spoke with MBF several times, and again with the beneficial use manager of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The West portion of the team continued to reach out to

agency stakeholders to win support for the design plans, and additionally held a meeting with landowners. The ASI portion of the team continued working with the Matagorda Bay Foundation as well as the Texas General Land Office on the permits.

Next Quarter: The team plans to continue working with the Texas General Land Office, USACE, and other federal and state agencies to build support through the permitting process (see below).

Deliverables:

- (4) Working group meeting recordings – **ongoing**
- (5) Report on working group’s regional strategy and funding plans – **ongoing**

Task 3: Produce engineering/design plans and obtain permits for the Sand Engine

Progress this Quarter: The team completed the USACE Joint Evaluation Meeting (JEM) portion of the permitting process. The team completed a magnetometer survey as required by the State Historical Commission, and found no archeological or historical antiquities in the area.

Next Quarter: Submit the final preauthorization for the USACE permit.

Deliverables:

- (6) 30% E&D plans and alternatives for Sand Engine on state/federal-owned land – **completed, final version will be submitted at the end of next quarterly reporting period**
- (7) Coastal Boundary survey – **not started**
- (8) Support package for permitting of Sand Engine – **ongoing**
- (9) Section 404 and other required permits for Sand Engine, 80% E&D – **ongoing**