



June 15, 2023

Dear Mr. Pinkham,

It has been a while since I have been in contact with you but as I have a very high regard for your dedication for environmental justice, I am forwarding this letter that I sent to Dr. Raven Blakeway, the designated contact person for public comments regarding the SEIS on the Matagorda Bay Ship Channel Dredging project. There were several meetings on June 6,7, 2023, in Port Lavaca that was hosted by the Corp of Engineers, Galveston District. There was an unfortunate incident regarding the attendance of the Hispanic commercial fishermen at the June 7, 2023, meeting. We want you to be aware that there are several requests, one being for a 60-day extension of the comment period.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these thoughts, Mr. Pinkham.

Most Sincerely,
Diane

Diane Wilson
Executive Director
San Antonio Bay Estuarine Waterkeeper
600 Ramona Rd
Seadrift, Texas 77983
361-218-2353

Dear Dr. Raven Blakeway,

We write to request an extension of the public comment period and share our concerns about the exclusion and intimidation of members of the local fishing community, many of whom speak Spanish or Vietnamese, during the Corps' recent meetings about the Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Matagorda Ship Channel Dredging Project. The Corps held an Open House meeting on June 7, but provided less than a week of notice for this meeting and did not provide information in Spanish or Vietnamese, despite being asked to provide it ahead of time. When a fisherman asked for Spanish translation during the meeting, an audience member made a racist comment that people who speak Spanish should "go home to Mexico." The Corps staff did not respond or condemn this offensive statement at the meeting, making the fishing community feel unwelcome and excluded from this process. This is unacceptable.

This dredging project could jeopardize the health and future of fisheries in our region. Scientists have shown that this dredging project could destroy hundreds of acres of oyster reefs and important fish habitat in Matagorda Bay and resuspend mercury contamination from the Lavaca Bay Superfund Site. The fishing community depends on the health of these bays and habitats for our livelihoods and to provide safe seafood to the public.

To allow for meaningful participation and input by the fishing community in the Corps' new Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the Matagorda Ship Channel Dredging Project, we request:

- an additional public meeting with Spanish and Vietnamese interpretation and key documents translated into these languages.
- an extension of the current public comment period by at least 60 days.

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Diane

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