

A proposal
on the

ESTABLISHMENT OF A
CENTER FOR TEXAS BEACHES AND SHORES
in
TEXAS INSTITUTE OF OCEANOGRAPHY
TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY AT GALVESTON



prepared by

Dr. Y.H. Wang, P.E.
December 1990
Revised June 1991

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that the author acknowledges a number of persons who offered encouragement and support during the course of finalizing this proposal.

The author is indebted to all members of the Galveston County Beach and Shore Preservation Committee for their enthusiasm and support of the "center" idea. Particular thanks are due to Mr. Frank Frankovich of Dannenbaum Engineering Corporation and Mr. Pat Hallisey, Executive Director, Galveston County Beach Park Board of Trustees and Co-chairman, Galveston County Beach and Shore Preservation Committee for their encouragement to carry through this idea.

Thanks are extended to Ms. Sally Davenport, Director of Coastal Division, General Land Office and Dr. William E. Evans, President, Texas Institute of Oceanography for their suggestion of making the proposed center the state's coastal "think tank" by including all disciplines and all higher learning institutions in Texas. Sincere thanks are also extended to Dr. Herman Rudenberg, President, Galveston Chapter of the Sierra Club, for his editorial skill and suggestions.

The manuscript was reviewed by Mr. Stan Tait, President, Florida Shore and Beach Preservation Association and Mr. Ralph R. Clark, Office of Beach Management, Florida Department of Natural Resources. They offered much insight into the set-up and funding mechanism for a possible "center" to be established in Texas. Their support of the "center" concept is gratefully appreciated.

Mr. Harold L. Holmes, Director, Galveston City Urban Planning Department, Messrs Jack C. Webb and John M. Arrington also offered their assistance and read the manuscript. Mr. Russell Eitel, Co-chairman, Galveston County Beach and Shore Preservation Committee is recognized for his comments and encouragement.

Finally, the author wishes to acknowledge the work of Ms. Karen Berg-Andreassen who typed, retyped and edited the entire manuscript with skill and patience. Her contribution was extraordinary!

SECTION 1 SUMMARY

Highlights of subsequent sections are summarized in the following:

- * The Department of Oceanography at TAMU is concerned with "blue water", the Federal Galveston Bay Programs are concerned with "bay water", and yet the major economic threats are from "weather" (in the broadest sense) acting upon the beaches and dunes, i.e., the interface between water and upland.
- * Land loss as well as recreational loss along the Texas coastal line cause economic losses in return. These losses must be reversed and turned into benefits.
- * There are two schools of thought for dealing with coastal problems; namely, protection and retreat. Protection methods have "side effects", while retreat is not feasible in many locales.
- * Scientifically justified approaches for solutions to coastal problems must include engineers, scientists and economists as a minimum. TAMUG has these aboard today.
- * The primary role of the proposed center is to serve as the state's coastal "think tank" for CZM needs. The scope of the center should include all activities for the advancement of coastal sciences, engineering and economics.
- * The newly passed Senate Bill 1571 along with House Bill 1622/23 and Senate Bill 1053/54 has generated enormous enthusiasm and activity in the Texas Coastal Zone Management (CZM) scene.
- * By legislative mandate, TAMUG is a specialty higher educational institution for the conduct of coastal and ocean studies. Formation of a Center For Texas Beaches and Shores (CTBS) in the Texas Institute of Oceanography (TIO) at TAMUG is both appropriate and desirable.
- * A local Galveston group has initiated processes of coastal management on Galveston County Beaches. With the high development, population, and recreational density in the Galveston region, such activity here is natural. All factors fall suitably into place for CTBS in TAMUG.
- * The objective of CTBS is to serve the state on technical matters relating to CZM needs in general, and to provide technical support to the Texas General Land Office (TGLO) in particular.

- * The new technology and special projects needed for solving CZM problems in Texas are large in both magnitude and scale and will require organized and consolidated efforts. The establishment of CTBS at TAMUG is the answer.
- * Special projects such as drawing construction setback lines in sand prefer non-government agencies and non-profit companies to carry them out. CTBS would fit this role very well.
- * The Department of Oceanography (DO) at the main campus has been emphasizing blue water oceanic studies, while CTBS would concentrate on coastal water, and therefore complement DO's activities.
- * Texas is late in starting the CZM plan. It would be logical to apply Florida's successful experience to the needs of Texas.
- * The establishment of the CTBS would focus attention upon the coastal initiative, concentrate effort toward solution methods and implementation, and more importantly, facilitate the negotiation of research proposals and special projects.
- * The one-year plan for the CTBS emphasizes working with TGLO on the demonstration projects.
- * The five-year plan would include long-term special projects such as drawing construction setback lines in sand and the creation of new wetlands.
- * CTBS funding could be derived from direct legislature appropriation and funded research proposals and special projects, both federal and state.
- * The CTBS budget may grow from \$500,000 in the first year to over \$1 million thereafter.
- * The time for establishing the CTBS is now, the location is Galveston, and the affiliation is with TIO at TAMUG.

SECTION 2 INTRODUCTION

In 1989, Senate Bill 1571 was passed by the Texas Legislature and signed by Governor Clement. This Bill designates the Texas General Land Office (TGLO) as the leading state agency for developing a comprehensive, long-term management plan for the state's coastal land. This Bill also allows the State of Texas to participate, for the first time, in the federal program of the Coastal Zone Management Act.

Upon the passage of S.B. 1571, Commissioner Garry Mauro of TGLO appointed a 68-member Citizens Advisory Committee to provide information on coastal problems, needs and possible solutions. Experts representing a broad range of interests including industry, environmental conservation, fisheries, and real estate development, inter alia, were gathered. Public hearings were held in the state's coastal counties. The consensus-building workshops were charged to identify the priority issues of concern and a Texas Coastal Management Plan was formulated in January 1991. The primary issues outlined in this plan include:

Coastal Erosion and Dune Protection

State-Owned Wetlands

Beach Access

Currently, two bills HB 1622 and HB 1623 sponsored by Representatives James Hury, Jr. and Mike Martin have passed with the Governor signing the legislation on June 7, 1991 and immediately requested Commissioner Garry Mauro to file for certification under the Federal Coastal Zone Management Program. More coastal legislations are planned.

SECTION 3 NEED AND JUSTIFICATION

3.A SPECIFIC JUSTIFICATION

The Department of Oceanography at TAMU is concerned with "blue water". The Federal Galveston Bay Programs are concerned with "bay water". Yet the major economic threats are from "weather" (in the broadest sense) acting on the beaches and dunes, i.e. the interface between water and upland.

The gulf shoreline and barrier islands of our state are either wholly or partly protected from action of waves and storms in the gulf by vegetated sand dunes. It is necessary to protect these natural defenses as the gulf shoreline contains a significant portion of the states' natural and recreational resources.

Land and recreational loss along the Texas coastal line cause economic losses in return. Public and private lands are affected, but our open beach legislation makes all beaches public-access. There are two schools of thought to deal with these problems, namely, protection and retreat. Protection methods have "side effects" and in many instances protection exacerbate the problems. All defenses cost over \$1 million dollars a mile to produce, before nature adds her toll. Similarly, retreat is equally costly and in many locales, not feasible.

Coastal losses must be reversed. Scientifically justified approaches must be used, and tested. The proper medium is an academic institution with a related purpose and suitably trained professionals. In the long run, this will include engineers, scientists and economists as a minimum. Texas A&M University at Galveston is charged by the legislature to conduct coastal and oceanic studies and is strategically located on the shoreline in Galveston. In addition, as this is a populated, developed area of highly recreational land, the focus of activity here is natural. A local group has initiated processes of coastal management on Galveston County beaches. All factors seem to fall into place for a CTBS at TAMUG.

It is time for our state to make a commitment to a comprehensive beach management program and a coastal construction regulatory program. Such programs would be greatly assisted by the creation of a Center for Texas Beaches and Shores (CTBS). We cannot afford to lose our valuable resources.

3.B ROLE AND SCOPE OF THE CENTER

3.B.a The Role: The primary role of the proposed Center For Texas Beaches and Shores (CTBS) in the Texas Institute of Oceanography (TIO) is to serve as the state's coastal "think tank" for CZM needs. This role will comprise:

- * Consulting capacity to TGLO and other supporting state agencies
- * Handling special projects suitable for non-profit, non-governmental institutions
- * Initiating research directly relating to local needs

3.B.b The Scope: The scope should include all activities for the advancement of coastal sciences, engineering and economics.

To achieve the role and scope of the proposed center, talents in various disciplines from all higher educational institutions of Texas will be utilized by the center, and will work together to become a first rate coastal center nationally and worldwide. Funds will be secured from local, state, federal and private sources.

3.C BASIS FOR THE PROPOSED CENTER

The Texas A&M University at Galveston is mandated by the Texas Legislature to be a specialty University for the conduct of coastal and ocean studies. The Senate Bill 1571 was initiated in Galveston. The desire to excel and to have a technological center for coastal studies located on the Texas shore line in Galveston is strongly supported by our local group. CZM events in Texas are rapidly developing and this is the time for establishing a Center for Texas Beaches and Shores.

The new technology and special projects needed for solving Texas' coastal management problems are of such magnitude and scale, the establishment of a Center for Texas Beaches and Shores in TIO to deal with these complicated issues is both appropriate and desirable. The following paragraphs will provide a glimpse of the size of the needed effort.

The number one issue in the Texas Coastal Zone Management Plan is Coastal Erosion and Dune Protection. Ever changing weather conditions and unpredictable major storm events will continue to play a predominate role in the creation or deletion of erosion problem areas. Erosion problems will continue to expand given long term growth of development and recreational interests on the Texas coast. There are many erosion control methods, i.e. jetties, groins, breakwaters, beach nourishment, littoral dumping, sand bypassing, inter alia. All of these methods have their problems. Beach erosion control remains an open field waiting for innovative new technologies to emerge. As for dune protection, it has been left predominantly to regulation and city ordinances. The technology to physically protect and restore the dune line is yet to come.

The second issue of concern is wetlands. This is a virgin field waiting to be explored. The goal of a zero total net loss of wetlands requires new technologies to create manmade wetlands. Assigning a dollar value to the wetlands is another interesting research topic. Other concerns are wetland conservation, fresh water inflow, reduction of pollution sources and mitigation.

The aforementioned subject matters have long been the favored and most mentioned research subjects in coastal science and engineering. It is now significant that the State of Texas has recognized these needs by passing Senate Bill 1571 and two fresh new bills, HB 1622/23 and SB 1053/54.

3.D TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE (TGLO)

The TGLO has successfully identified the coastal issues of concern and built up the consensus from a broad range of interests. The TGLO management team is commended for having done an excellent job initiating the Texas Coastal Zone Management Plan. Now, TGLO has entered into the implementation phase. The degree of success in this implementation stage depends largely on the decisions made, which are technical in nature. Special projects such as the demonstration projects in Galveston County require specific trained personnel with professional engineering (P.E.) licenses. Other projects such as drawing the setback line in the sand need non-government agencies to avoid antagonizing the local community, as well as non-industry companies to alleviate any conflicts of interest. The TGLO might well appreciate the creation of a center solely devoted to cooperating on these technical matters.

TAMUG is mandated by the Texas Legislature as the higher education institution in Texas to conduct coastal and ocean studies. TGLO and TAMUG working together would enhance appropriation chances in the upcoming legislative session.

3.E TIO AS THE HOST INSTITUTION OF THE CENTER

The proposed Center For Texas Beaches and Shores in TIO would concentrate its activities in the coastal region at the interface between water and upland, while the Department of Oceanography at the main campus has traditionally placed its emphasis on blue water oceanic studies and the Federal Galveston Bay Programs pertain to bay water. This proposed center would be a welcome addition that would complement TAMU's deepwater effort as well as the Federal Galveston Bay Programs.

SECTION 4 FLORIDA EXPERIENCE

Government and academia work together: In the early 1970s when the State of Florida began to look into her coastal zone development problems, a group of faculty members at the University of Florida (including Dr. Wang) were asked to initiate a search for a coastal zone management tool. Later, the acclaimed Florida Construction Setback Law was recommended and implemented by this faculty group at the University of Florida. Through storm surge and dune erosion models new control lines defining the states' zone of coastal construction regulatory jurisdiction were established. The Beaches and Shores Resource Center at Florida State University makes recommendation to Florida Department of Natural Resources based upon such results.

Florida has since been praised for its coastal zone management program and become a leader in the field.

In 1990, the Florida Legislature passed a coastal zone management budget of \$35 million and looked forward to a matching fund from the federal government. Meanwhile, private consulting engineering firms specializing in beach erosion control and coastal resources management have been emerging. Innovative new methods for erosion control are being tested on both the Atlantic and Gulf coasts of Florida.

Texas is late in looking into her coastal zone development problems and has a great deal of catching up to do. It would be logical and appropriate to take advantage of Florida's successful experience and headway and apply it to the needs of Texas.

SECTION 5 ORGANIZATION

The establishment of CTBS would focus attention upon the coastal initiative, concentrating efforts toward solution methods with scientists in an advisory role and engineers carrying out the implementation techniques, and more importantly, facilitating the negotiation of research proposals and special projects with local, state, federal and private agencies. CTBS could become the state's coastal "think tank" with experts in engineering, geology, ecology, biology and economics from throughout the state's university system including Bureau of Economic Geology, inter alia, working together.

The organization of personnel should be flexible in order to reflect activity that the CTBS can generate. To keep CTBS lean and dynamic, to follow the newest trend of "self management" the Director should be an expert in the field and capable of generating and sustaining activities for the center. An Advisory Board constitute of experts from government, industry and academia to assist the Director is desirable. For the first year, a Director assisted by an Administrative Assistant would be a good starting point.

SECTION 6 RESPONSE TO CONCERN

6.A FIRST YEAR PLAN

Liaison and rapport with constituents: In the past two years, Dr. Wang has been very active in meeting state and local officials and has participated in many public hearings. He will continue to do so in order to publicize the proposed Center.

The emphasis of the first year plan is to work with the Texas General Land Office (TGLO) on the demonstration projects to be carried out on the shoreline of Galveston County. The specific technical services to be provided to TGLO will be in the form of a series of proposals addressing the following technical problems:

- 6.A.a Review and recommend methods of combating erosion at demonstration sites
- 6.A.b Display new techniques for duneline restoration at demonstration sites
- 6.A.c Investigate economical new sand sources for beach nourishment projects at demonstration sites
- 6.A.d Monitor success or failure at demonstration sites.

This list, of course, is contingent upon the TGLO's preferences and priorities. The cost for the above proposals is roughly estimated to be \$500,000.

6.B FIVE-YEAR PLAN

While continuing to work on the projects of the first year, the Center will propose to the TGLO the following long-range projects:

6.B.a Coastal Zone Management Tool:

The successful experience of Florida's construction setback line and Texas' vegetation line can be combined to formulate an effective CZM tool for Texas. The implementation would take three years or longer.

6.B.b Creation of New Wetlands:

This is a multi-disciplinary long-term project which requires ecology, biology and engineering experts working together in order to be successful.

6.B.c Other short and long-range projects will emerge as Texas enters into the CZM era.

These options are contingent upon the TGLO's preferences and priorities.

Effort to secure research funds from federal and private sources will also be made in order to advance coastal sciences and engineering and to become one of the first rate coastal institutions in the nation and the world.

SECTION 7 FUNDING

A two-tier funding strategy is recommended as follows.

7.A DIRECT LEGISLATURE APPROPRIATION

TIO could ask directly for funds for the establishment of a Center For Texas Beach and Shores. Following is a list of the legislators who are SB 1571, HB 1622/23 and SB 1053/54 sponsors and supporters, and it is therefore likely that they would also be supporters of this TIO request.

Senator Chet Brooks, Pasadena
Senator Carl Parker, Beaumont
Representative Ralph Wallace, Houston
Representative James F. Hury, Galveston
Representative Mike Martin, Galveston
Representative Hugo Berlander, Houston

7.B PROJECT FUNDS

Research proposals and special projects may be submitted to the following state agencies which are the participants designated by Senate Bill 1571.

Lead Agency: Texas General Land Office

Supporting Agencies:	Texas Parks & Wildlife Department
	Texas Water Commission
	Texas Water Development Board
	Texas Department of Transportation
	Texas Railroad Commission
	Texas Attorney General's Office

Federal agencies and private institutions should include but not be limited to the following list:

National Science Foundation
Office of Naval Research
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
Federal Emergency Management Agency
US Army Corps of Engineers
Coastal Engineering Research Center
Waterway Experimental station
District Offices
US Coast Guard
Department of Transportation, Washington D.C.
National Aeronautical and Space Administration

7.C CENTER BUDGET PROJECTION

Recent Florida state appropriations for beach related expenditures have been \$35 million plus matching federal funds for 1990. Judging from the rapidly developing events in the CZM plan mentioned above, the Center's budget projection should present a plausible and attainable goal. As outlined in section 6.A, Dr. Wang will be submitting proposals amounting to \$500,000 for the first year. Subsequent years could reach well over \$1 million when other faculty members in Galveston and in the state's universities elsewhere join in.

SECTION 8 CONCLUSION

It is time for Texas to commit to a comprehensive beach management and coastal construction regulatory program and such a program would be greatly assisted by the creation of a Center for Texas Beaches and Shores. A CTBS in TIO would enhance the visibility, accountability and cohesion of the Coastal Zone Management program in Texas.

It is therefore timely, feasible, and appropriate to establish a Center for Texas Beaches and Shores within the Texas Institute of Oceanography at Texas A&M University at Galveston.

APPENDICES

A.A PROPOSER'S BACKGROUND

Dr. Y.H. Wang, was an Associate Professor with the Department of Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering, University of Florida from 1971 to 1979. During that period Dr. Wang joined the late Professor James Purpura and Dr. T.Y. Chiu in working on the determination of technical criteria for drawing the construction setback line in sand and other projects relating to Florida's coastal zone management program. Dr. Wang also independently initiated projects/studies along the Atlantic shoreline and Gulf of Mexico coast. He had projects in Clearwater Beach, Jacksonville and Pensacola. He was also supported by the US Army Corps of Engineers to study the littoral process in Panama City Beach.

Dr. Wang joined Texas A&M University at Galveston in 1980 and was appointed as the Department Head to revitalize the engineering program for serving the offshore energy industry. During his 5-year tenure period as the Department Head, Dr. Wang successfully produced quality engineering graduates and earned high marks from both the graduates and their employers. Dr. Wang returned to coastal engineering research when offshore activity dwindled. For the past five years, Dr. Wang has initiated the concept of nature-assisted duneline restoration, studied San Luis Pass, Rollover Bay and Pass, oil spills on Galveston Island, and satellite imagery application to coastal engineering.

Dr. Wang is an experienced principal investigator. His projects have been supported by the National Science Foundation, NASA, US Army Corps of Engineers, Sea Grant Offices as well as private industry and Foundations. Dr. Wang earned international status by publishing his works in England, Germany, Denmark, USSR, China and Brazil. He is also a frequent attendant at community meetings and public hearings.

A.B COMMENTS FROM PEER REVIEWERS

**Mr. Harold L. Holmes
Director
Department of Urban Planning
P.O. Box 779
Galveston, Texas 77553**

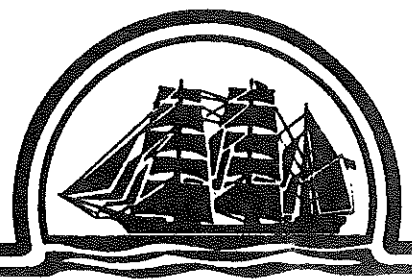
**Mr. Stan Tait
President
Florida Beach & Shore Preservation Association
864 East Park Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32301
(904) 222-7677**

**Mr. Ralph Clark
Chief, Beaches and Shores Division
Bureau of Coastal Engineering and Regulation
Division of Beaches and Shores
Department of Natural Resources
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32303**

**Ms. Sally S. Davenport
Director
Coastal Division
Texas General Land Office
Stephen F. Austin Building
1700 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701**

**Representative Mike Martin
State Representative District 25
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768-2910**

City of Galveston



Department of Urban Planning
P.O. Box 779 / Galveston, Texas 77553 / (409) 766-2106

January 15, 1991

Dr. Y.H. Wang, P.E.
Department of Maritime Systems Engineering
Texas A & M University at Galveston
Mitchell Campus
P.O. Box 1675
Galveston, Texas 77553-1675

Dear Dr. Wang:

I have read your proposal for the establishment of a "Center for Texas Beaches & Shores" at Texas A & M University at Galveston. I think that this proposal, if approved, would have a great benefit for the City as well as, the County and State. The Galveston A & M Campus is the ideal location to review new technology and also develop projects needed for solving Texas' coastal management problems.

I wish you great success in establishing a "Center for Texas Beaches and Shores" at the University. Any assistance that I can give through this office to such a worthwhile endeavor, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Harold L. Holmes,
Director

HLH/sp



FLORIDA SHORE & BEACH
PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION

864 East Park Avenue
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

(904) 222-7677 • (904) 561-1172 FAX

January 17, 1991

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Allen Ten Broek
Sanibel Island

VICE CHAIRMAN

James B. Terry
Clearwater

SECRETARY-

TREASURER

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Boca Raton

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Jim Sheffer
Pensacola Beach

Steve Somerville
Fort Lauderdale

EX OFFICIO

Andy Nicholson
Safety Harbor

Dr. Y. H. Wang
Professor
Department of Maritime
Systems Engineering
Texas A&M University
P. O. Box 1675
Galveston, TX 77533-1675

Dear Dr. Wang:

I commend you on your proposal to establish a "Center for Texas Beaches and Shores" at Texas A&M University at Galveston.

Such a center can be of invaluable assistance to the new Texas Coastal Zone Management program.

Certainly, that has been our experience with the Department of Coastal and Oceanographic Engineering at the University of Florida.

Interestingly, your proposal tracks what we did in Florida.

In 1957, first action of the newly-created Florida Shore & Beach Preservation Association was to ask the Florida Legislature to create a State Division of Beaches and Shores, which they did later that year.

FSBPA's second action was to recommend creation of the coastal engineering center at the University of Florida and to provide annual funding of \$400,000 for beach-related research. That, too, was quickly approved.

Over the years, the program at the University of Florida has grown and prospered. Today, in my opinion, it is the foremost academic program of beach and coastal research in the United States. Its efforts have been a key part of the success of Florida's statewide beach preservation program.

Please keep me posted on your progress.

Sincerely,



Stan Tait
President



Tom Gardner, Executive Director

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Marjory Stoneman Douglas Building
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

February 4, 1991

Y.H. Wang, Ph.D., P.E.
Professor
Texas A & M University
at Galveston
Post Office Box 1675
Galveston, Texas 77553-1675

Dear Dr. Wang:

It is good to hear from you. I reviewed your proposal for creating a new Center for Texas Beaches and Shores in Galveston and wish you much success in this endeavor.

To facilitate our programs here in Florida, we assisted the establishment of a Beaches and Shores Resource Center at Florida State University in Tallahassee. Your former colleague at the University of Florida, Dr. T.Y. Chiu, is the director of this center. I regret to say that Dr. Chiu is in very poor health at this time.

We receive annual legislative appropriations to fund Dr. Chiu and his staff to conduct the engineering studies, including storm surge models and dune erosion models, for the establishment of coastal construction control lines around our coast. We advanced beyond the old setback line program and are replacing all the setback lines with the new control lines which define the state's zone of coastal construction regulatory jurisdiction. I have enclosed a document which discusses our current programs in greater detail.

I also enclosed a document which inventories our Florida beaches and the erosion problem areas. You probably already reviewed the recent letter I wrote to Pat Hallisey with Galveston County Beach and Parks. Texas needs to make a commitment to adopt a comprehensive beach management program and a coastal construction regulatory program. And such programs would be greatly assisted by the creation of a Center for Texas Beaches and Shores.

I realize that these are difficult economic times, but we can not afford to lose our valuable resources. Please keep me abreast of any developments in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ralph R. Clark
Office of Beach Management

RRC/as
Enclosures

Lawton Chiles
Governor

Jim Smith
Secretary of State

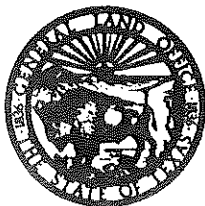
Bob Butterworth
Attorney General

Gerald Lewis
State Comptroller

Tom Gallagher
State Treasurer

Bob Crawford
Commissioner of Agriculture

Betty Castor
Commissioner of Education



Texas General Land Office

Sally S. Davenport
Director
Coastal Division

Garry Mauro
Commissioner

February 25, 1991

Dr. Y. H. Wang, P.E.
Texas A&M University at Galveston
Mitchell Campus
P.O. Box 1675
Galveston, Texas 77553-1675

Dear Dr. Wang:

Thank you for your recent letter and proposal for establishing a Center for Texas Beaches and Shores (CTBS).

As the 72nd Texas legislative session convenes, the state legislature is faced with a multitude of difficult decisions, including many pertaining to Texas Coastal Management Plan recommendations. The most challenging task is finding the funds to support the projects and programs proposed in the plan. In addition to state resources, the GLO is seeking funding from numerous federal sources. The Federal Coastal Management Program is one source of funding, but as you know Texas is not a participant in the federal Coastal Zone Management (CZM) program and can join the federal program only by decision of Governor Richards.

Regarding your proposal, we offer a few comments:

- o To gain broad-based support, the CTBS should include experts of all coastal disciplines (engineering, geology, ecology, and biology) from throughout the state university system and the Bureau of Economic Geology. The CTBS could become the state's coastal "think-tank," with all of Texas' experts working together. Housing the CTBS at TAMUG seems appropriate because of the university's coastal location and its relationship with the Texas Institute of Oceanography.
- o The CTBS should not rely solely on state-generated funds to support its coastal research. A percentage of the CTBS budget should come from grants and other sources.


Stephen F. Austin Building
1700 N. Congress Avenue
Austin, Texas 78701
(512) 463-5059

Dr. Y. H. Wang, P. E.
February 25, 1991
Page two

- o The scope of CTBS services should not be limited to the "discovery and recommendation of new technologies." It should include research into Texas' coastal problems and determination of natural and human impacts as well as the development of ways to mitigate loss of shoreline and ecological damage with innovative technology.

Addressing the erosion and other shoreline problems along the Texas coast is a high-priority issue for this agency. The General Land Office is pleased to work with you in pursuing methods to protect our coastal natural resources.

Sincerely,


Sally S. Davenport
Director
Coastal Division

SSD/km



MIKE MARTIN
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1501 AMBURN ROAD, SUITE 9
TEXAS CITY, TEXAS 77591
(409) 938-1236

CAPITOL OFFICE:
P.O. BOX 2910
AUSTIN, TEXAS 78768-2910
(512) 463-0502

June 25, 1991

Mr. Y.W. Wang
PO Box 1981
Drop 374
Galveston, TX 77553

Dear Mr. Wang,

As the sponsor of H.B. 1622/23 - S.B. 1053/54, the Coastal Zone Management Legislation, I wanted to express my sincere appreciation for your support and hard work over the past years.

Without your input, this legislation would have never passed. That is significant when you consider that the Legislature has been trying to pass this legislation since 1973!

The Governor signed this legislation into law on June 7, 1991 and immediately requested Commissioner Garry Mauro to file for certification under the Federal Coastal Zone Management Program. We expect certification within the next 90 days.

Because of you we passed the most significant coastal legislation in the state's history. I sincerely thank you for all of your support.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Mike Martin".

MIKE MARTIN

MM/sg

A.C TEXAS COASTAL ZONE MANAGEMENT PLAN

