



Coastal Bend Bays & Estuaries Program, Inc.

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Date: January 26, 2010

To: CBBEP Board of Directors

From: CBBEP Staff

RE: Continued Operation and Maintenance of Rincon Bayou Salinity Stations located in the Nueces Delta

Performing Organization: Conrad Blucher Institute, TAMU-CC

Total Funding: \$15,000

CBBEP Bays Plan Action: FW-1, FW-2, FW-3, FW-4

This project seeks to maintain existing salinity stations at various locations down stream of a diversion pipeline in order to calculate spatial and temporal environmental affects as well as the amount of freshwater needed to manage a healthier estuary within the Nueces River Delta located near Corpus Christi, Texas.

As a CBBEP project funded in FY 2009, the Conrad Blucher Institute for Surveying and Science (CBI) has installed and currently maintains 3 environmental monitoring stations in the Nueces Estuary. The three salinity stations (Nude01, Nude02, Nude03) were established in May 2009 and are sponsored by the CBBEP, and have support until May of 2010.

CBBEP requests continued funding for this project from June 1st to October 31, 2010 until the next CBBEP Annual Workplan (FY2011) is approved. The Water and Sediment Quality Implementation Team is proposing maintenance of these stations for a year in addition to several other data collection stations for the FY2011 funding cycle.

Project Objectives:

- Continue to monitor salinity at 3 locations in the Rincon Bayou and upper Nueces Delta in order to track the freshwater diverted through the pipeline.
- To study the input to the City and the Nueces Estuary Advisory Councils concern for potential modifications to the Agreed Order based on the results of the project. The data gathered through this project will compliment the information from other monitoring projects being conducted in the Rincon Bayou.