

December 8, 2021

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

RE: Quarterly Progress Report for the period 9/1/2021 – 11/30/2021.

Dear Mr. Raabe,

Please find enclosed the following deliverable: Quarterly Progress Report for the project “Long-term Trends in Lavaca-Colorado and Guadalupe Estuaries” Contract No. 0011.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Montagna, Ph.D.  
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  
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**I. TITLE, CONTRACT INFORMATION, AND CONTACTS:**

**Long-term Trends in Lavaca-Colorado and Guadalupe Estuaries**

**Contract 0011**

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  
Telephone: 361-825-2040  
Email: [Paul.Montagna@tamucc.edu](mailto:Paul.Montagna@tamucc.edu)

Contract Period: 01 March 2021 – 31 December 2022

Reporting Period: 01 September to 30 November 2021  
Date of submission: 8 December 2021

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 four tasks for this project:

Task 1): Analyze archived benthic samples.

Task 2): Synthesize existing monitoring data from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Coastal Fisheries Program (TPWD).

Task 3): Synthesize existing water and sediment quality data obtained from Freese and Nichols, Inc. monitoring of the Formosa Plastics Corporation discharge site into Lavaca Bay.

Task 4): 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.

Final Report = December 31, 2022

## **III. STATUS OF TASKS:**

Task 1): In progress. Completed 102 samples this quarter.

Task 2): In progress. TPWD monitoring data has been received and put into an analyzable format.

Task 3): In progress. Digitized and performed quality control checks on 25 years of monitoring data. Began data analysis.

Task 4): In progress. Second quarterly report submitted. Gave four presentations that were related to the project:

Montagna, P.A., Gibeaut, J., Douglas, A. "Evaluation of the Proposal for Widening and Deepening the Matagorda Ship Channel," Lavaca Bay Foundation, Port Lavaca, TX, 21 October 2021.

Montagna, P.A. "A Brief History of Freshwater Inflow Policies and Studies," Texas Water Development Board, Estuary Science Exchange Webinar, 14 October 2021.

[https://www.twdb.texas.gov/surfacewater/bays/estuary\\_science/index.asp](https://www.twdb.texas.gov/surfacewater/bays/estuary_science/index.asp)

Montagna, P.A. "Focused Flows to Protect Natural Nurseries," Texas Water Development Board, Virtual Brown Bag Seminar, 24 September 2021

Montagna, P.A. "Importance of Environmental Flows in Water Resource Planning," French American Innovation Day 2021, Houston, Texas, Virtual Conference, 15 September 2021.

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

Task 1): Continue to analyze archived benthic samples.

Task 2): Analysis of TPWD monitoring data.

Task 3): Complete analysis of the database of the Formosa Plastics Corporation discharge site.

Task 4): Submit a quarterly reporting.

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

None.

**VI. ADHERENCE TO PROJECT TIMELINE:**

A. Explanation of delays (if any): No delays.

B. Anticipated delays: None expected.