TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY
CORPUS CHRISTI

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July 1, 2026

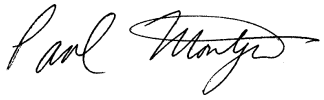
Steven J. Raabe, P.E.
Trustee, Matagorda Bay Mitigation Trust
PO Box 1269
Poth, TX 78147-1269

RE: Quarterly Progress Report for the period 4/1/2026 – 6/30/2026

Dear Mr. Raabe,

Please find enclosed the following deliverable: Quarterly Progress Report for the project "Are benefits of freshwater inflow confounded with degradation by non-point source pollution in Lavaca and Matagorda Bays" Contract No. 068.

Sincerely,



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Professor, Physical and Environmental Science Department
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Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
6300 Ocean Drive, Unit 5869
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Phone: 361-825-2040
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I. TITLE, CONTRACT INFORMATION, AND CONTACTS:

Are benefits of freshwater inflow confounded with degradation by non-point source pollution in Lavaca and Matagorda Bays?
Contract No. 068

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

Contract Period: 01 February 2024 – 31 December 2026

Reporting Period: 01 April 2026 to 30 June 2026
Date of submission: 1 July 2026

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

II. DESCRIPTION OF TASKS:

There are two tasks for this project:

Task 1): Sediment Quality Triad (SQT) analysis. 18 stations sampled and analyzed for sediment chemistry, toxicity, and biodiversity.

Task 2): Data Management, Reporting, and Outreach Engagement. Quarterly Progress Reports: within 10 days of the end of each annual quarter: Q1 = 10 April 2024, Q2 = 10 July 2024, Q3 = 10 October 2024, Q4 = 10 January 2025, Q5 = 10 July 2025, Q6 = 10 October 2025, Q7 = 10 January 2026, Q8 = 10 April 2026, Q10 = 10 July 2026, Q11 = 10 October 2026. The Final Report = 31 December 2026. Public engagement.

III. STATUS OF TASKS:

Task 1): Complete.

The field sampling was completed on 13-15 May 2024 and on 22 May 2024.
This subtask is complete.

Chemistry samples were shipped to College Station, TX and were completed on 1 November 2024.
This subtask is complete.

Toxicology samples were shipped to NOAA in Charleston, SC and Graduate Student Angelica Ovalle went to SC to help with sample analysis. The analyses were completed on 15 October 2024. Four toxicity tests were run: the amphipod *Leptochirus plumolusus*, the polychaete *Neanthes arenaceodentata*, and the seed clam *Mercenaria mercenaria*; and Micotox tests on bioluminescent bacteria.
This subtask is complete.

Benthic samples were brought back to Corpus Christi, TX and are being analyzed. In this quarter, 20 benthic samples (= 2 stations x 5 replicates x 2 section depths) were completed for community structure analyses. That brings the total number of samples completed to 190 of 190. During the current quarter all the datasets were completed and proofread.
This subtask is complete.

All data sets have been proofread and verified. *Task 1 is complete.*

Task 2): In progress.

Tenth quarterly report submitted to MBMT.

Completed first draft of all data analyses and began report writing.

IV. PLAN FOR NEXT QUARTER:

Task 1): Submit a quarterly report.

Task 2): Complete data analysis and complete first draft for the final report, which is due December 31, 2026.

V. PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED/CORRECTIVE ACTIONS:

We still haven't received invoices for the toxicology work performed at the NOAA laboratory in South Carolina in summer 2024. We continue to remind them on a monthly basis.

VI. ADHERENCE TO PROJECT TIMELINE:

A. Explanation of delays (if any): We haven't been able to obtain invoicing from the NOAA laboratory.

B. Anticipated delays: None.