

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CONTACT:

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Re: Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District Hosts Public Information Session on October 9, 2014 at 2:00 p.m., Harris County Commissioners Court

HOUSTON (October 10, 2014) – The Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District (GCCPRD) held a public information session on Thursday, October 9, 2014 hosted by Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and GCCPRD President Robert Eckels. The session provided details about the GCCPRD Storm Surge Suppression Study.

Following three major hurricanes, the last of which (Hurricane Ike) was the most expensive in Texas' history, Governor Perry issued an Executive Order creating the Governor's Commission for Disaster Recovery and Renewal. One of the Commission's recommendations was to conduct a study to determine how coastal communities can reduce the damage of future storms. In conjunction with that recommendation, Brazoria, Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, and Orange Counties formed the GCCPRD as a local government corporation. The GCCPRD is leading the Storm Surge Suppression Study, a technical, scientific-based study funded to investigate opportunities to alleviate the vulnerability of the upper Texas coast to storm surge and flooding from events like Hurricane Ike. The study is funded by the Texas General Land Office through a \$3.9 million federal Housing and Urban Development, Community Development Block Grant that was awarded in September 2013. Since then, the GCCPRD has been collecting data as well as analyzing existing studies and reports. This study is an opportunity for the GCCPRD to assume a leadership role and work collaboratively with federal, state, local, and public and private institutions to develop a comprehensive coastal protection plan that meets the needs of the region and the nation.

The Storm Surge Suppression Study will yield a variety of storm surge suppression alternatives that may consist of natural, structural, and nonstructural methods. Using these findings, the GCCPRD will recommend a cost-effective and efficient system of flood damage reduction and storm surge suppression measures to help protect the six-county region. It is anticipated that this study will conclude in fall 2016. Public

feedback and participation is encouraged throughout the life of the study. Public scoping meetings will be held in winter 2014 and at key milestones in the study. Future large-scale public scoping meetings will be noticed in advance in local newspapers. For more information or to join the mailing list visit: <http://www.gccprd.com/>

About the Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District (GCCPRD): The GCCPRD is a local government corporation governed by a Board of Directors comprised of the County Judge of each participating county and three additional appointed members serving three-year terms. Former Harris County Judge Robert Eckels was appointed by the Board to serve as President of the District.

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