

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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ASSISTANT REPUBLICAN WHIP



JOHN CULBERSON
7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
1514 LONGWORTH BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4307
202.225.2571
FAX 202.225.4381

DISTRICT OFFICE:
10000 MEMORIAL DRIVE, SUITE 620
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77024-3490
713.682.8828
FAX: 713.680.8070

INTERNET:
WWW.CULBERSON.HOUSE.GOV

April 3, 2009

The Honorable Peter J. Visclosky
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
2362-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

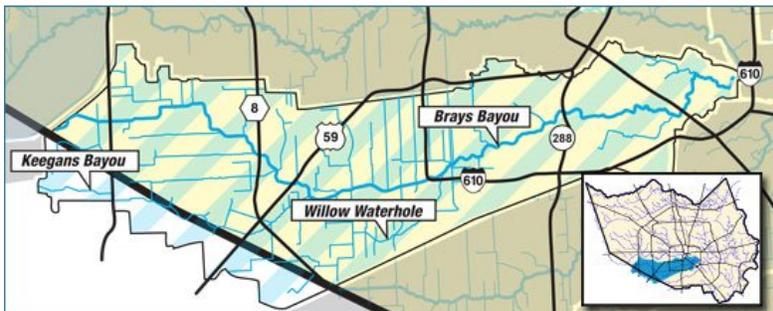
The Honorable Rodney P. Frelinghuysen
Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development
Committee on Appropriations
United States House of Representatives
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Visclosky and Ranking Member Frelinghuysen:

As you begin drafting the FY2010 Energy and Water Appropriations bill, I respectfully request your support for the following projects in or near the 7th district of Texas. I have ranked these requests in priority order and attempted to limit the amount of each request to reflect the project's need and simplify your difficult task.

To simplify your task and to help control federal spending, I apply a rigorous filter to every spending request I receive. I tell everyone who asks me for federal funding that the starting answer is "no" and that "yes" is very hard to earn. I will not even consider a request from a private individual or a private company because I think it will unavoidably lead to problems. Then it must be an absolutely essential project of great public benefit that falls within the confines of the U. S. Constitution's grant of authority to Congress, and it must be in dire need of federal funding to assure the continuation of the work in question. Even if these conditions are met, I still filter out quite a few projects because of the dangerously large federal deficit and the unsustainable national debt. After all these filters are applied, I then try to limit the projects I consider to medical or scientific research at the Texas Medical Center or NASA, critical flood control or transportation projects, or defending our borders and our national security. I am especially supportive of nanotechnology research because it will totally transform our lives forever by helping us cure human diseases at the earliest stages when only a few cells are involved, by improving human productivity as well as the efficiency of every device that runs on electricity, and by helping to make America energy independent.

1. **Brays Bayou:** \$28,850,000 for construction of a flood damage reduction project along Brays Bayou in Harris County, Texas, in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Construction General account.



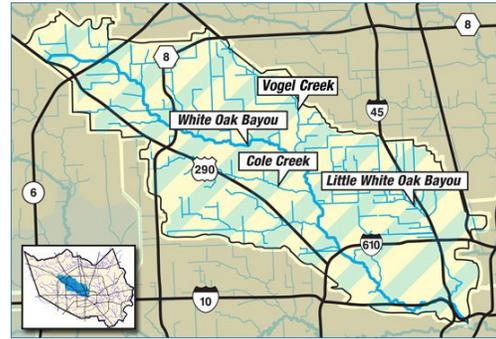
Source: Harris County Flood Control District

Since its creation, the Harris County Flood Control District's (HCFCD's) role has become increasingly complex. Whereas, its original role was to serve as the local partner for major projects with the U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers, many other facets of reducing flood risks in Harris County have come into play. HCFCD's responsibilities now include devising the flood damage reduction plans, implementing the plans and maintain the infrastructure, and carrying out their mission with appropriate regard for community and natural values. Flood damage reduction is in the national interest by reducing loss of life, injury and property destruction.

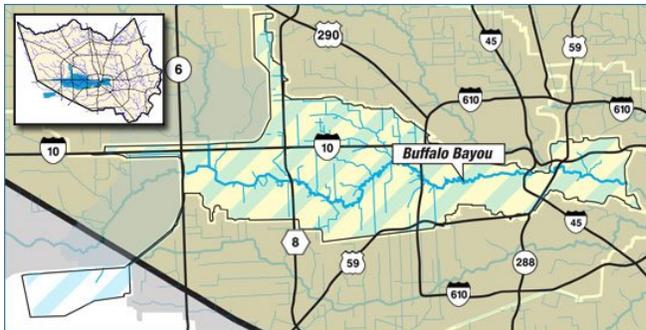
2. **White Oak Bayou:** \$100,000 for construction of a flood damage reduction project along White Oak Bayou in Harris County, Texas, in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Investigations account.

Since its creation, the Harris County Flood Control District's (HCFCD's) role has become increasingly complex. Whereas, its original role was to serve as the local partner for major projects with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, many other facets of reducing flood risks in Harris County have come into play. HCFCD's responsibilities now include devising the flood damage reduction plans, implementing the plans and maintain the infrastructure, and carrying out their mission with appropriate regard for community and natural values. Flood damage reduction is in the national interest by reducing loss of life, injury and property destruction.



Source: Harris County Flood Control District

3. **Buffalo Bayou:** \$100,000 for Army Corps oversight of a flood damage reduction project aimed at reducing the loss of life, injury, and property destruction in the Buffalo Bayou Watershed in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Investigations account.



Source: Harris County Flood Control District

Since its creation, the Harris County Flood Control District's (HCFCD's) role has become increasingly complex. Whereas, its original role was to serve as the local partner for major projects with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, many other facets of reducing flood risks in Harris County have come into play. HCFCD's responsibilities now include devising the flood damage reduction plans, implementing the plans and maintain the infrastructure, and carrying out their mission with appropriate regard for community and natural values.

Flood damage reduction is in the national interest by reducing loss of life, injury and property destruction.

4. **Houston-Galveston Navigation Channels:** \$58,350,000 to construct marshlands for environmental restoration, maintain the Channel and to add capacity for dredged material disposal sites along the Channel in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Construction General account.

The activity along the Houston Ship Channel is responsible for hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic impact. As a federal local investment, it returns \$2.30 for every dollar invested. It is a critical economic engine for the Houston region, the State of Texas and the United States. Maintaining this dynamic waterway system is imperative to protecting these economic benefits.



The Channel is also integral to our nation's energy security as host to the largest refinery in the United States and second largest petrochemical complex in the world.

The Houston Ship Channel has reached a critical point. Over the last five years, federal funding has dropped from 100% to 40% of the Corps' capability indicated for the channel. During this same period, cargo tonnage has increased dramatically. The Ship Channel complex cannot continue to generate commerce, income, and jobs with an operating budget of less than half of the funds needed for safe and efficient navigation.

Funding is needed to maintain the Channel and build additional capacity into the dredged material disposal sites along the Houston Ship Channel.

5. Houston Ship Channel: \$30,905,000 to continue daily maintenance and operations of one of the nation's busiest ship channels in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Operations and Maintenance account.



The activity along the Houston Ship Channel is responsible for hundreds of thousands of jobs and billions of dollars in economic impact. As a federal local investment, it returns \$2.30 for every dollar invested. It is a critical economic engine for the Houston region, the State of Texas and the United States. Maintaining this dynamic waterway system is imperative to protecting these economic benefits.

Without this designated funding required to dredge the Houston Ship Channel, the Army Corps of Engineers will not be able to keep the Channel clear. Sediment is so active in the Galveston Bay that without the funding required in place, the Channel will silt up and become unusable by large ships in six months.

Should your office need any additional information, please contact Brittany Seabury at 5-2571.

Thank you in advance for your consideration of my requests.

Sincerely,



John Culberson
Member of Congress