



CITIZEN'S ADVISORY COUNCIL TO LA PORTE INDUSTRY

**"Story Map" Demonstrated during La Porte CAC
Status Report on Coastal Texas Study
February 2, 2021**

"Excellent information" and "amazing technology" were frequent comments when Dr. Kelly Burks-Copes of the Army Corps of Engineers and Tony Williams of the Texas General Land Office introduced the Citizen's Advisory Council (CAC) to La Porte Industry to a wealth of information about plans to protect the Texas coast from hurricane surge, which may be found at www.coastalstudy@texas.gov. The plan is based on multiple lines of defense, including Gulf of Mexico defenses, Galveston Bay defenses, and coastal resilience improvements.

This Coastal Texas Protection and Restoration Study website explains the need for coastal protection, why the study was launched, and proposed solutions. It includes facts sheets, in depth explanations and analyses of specific issues, Frequently Asked Questions, and what is called a "story map."

The story map, accessible at <https://coastal-texas-hub-usace-swg.hub.arcgis.com/> uses photos, animations, videos, maps, and text to let users to interact with the information and personalize it to one's location and interests. CAC members would agree with Dr. Burks-Copes' recommendation to watch the video on how to use the story map first. One example of interaction is a map showing current surge potential from a certain intensity storm. By sliding a bar across the map, one can see where surge would be reduced if the plan is implemented. Users may look at the Galveston Bay area as a whole, or zoom in on an address.

The Environmental Impact Statement's public comment period recently ended, and the plan now moves toward a decision by the Chief of the Army Corps of Engineers. The plan still needs a non-federal sponsor, a decision the Texas Legislature would make, as well as congressional approval and appropriations, which could come in 2022. The project as designed would be the biggest ever undertaken by the US Army Corps of Engineers.