



- ★ S2G Project - Orange County Project
- ★ S2G Project - Port Arthur Project
- ★ Coastal Texas Project

# About the District

Along the Texas coast, vital resources critical to the social, economic, and environmental welfare of the nation are at risk. When coastal storms damage homes, businesses, industry, infrastructure, and the natural environments of the Texas coast, the immediate fallout and the continued aftermath affect not only the people who live in these coastal counties, but also the entire state of Texas and the nation as a whole.

The Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) was created in 2021 by the 87th regular Texas Legislature to oversee the implementation of an integrated and comprehensive coastal resilience strategy for the upper Texas coast. Specifically, this includes assuming the role of non-Federal sponsor for major portions of the Federally funded and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) led Coastal Texas Project and Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay (S2G) Project, known together as the Coastal Barrier.

The Coastal Barrier represents a systemwide risk management strategy for the coastline of Texas, employing multiple lines of defense to reduce the risk of coastal storm surge to natural and man-made infrastructure and to restore degraded coastal ecosystems. Employing a combination of structural and nature-based solutions, the proposed system of improvements will increase the State's ability to withstand and recover from coastal storms, to adapt to rising sea levels, and to maintain the critical social, economic, and environmental systems which serve both Texas and the nation. This includes safeguarding the region's nationally significant energy, petro-chemical, national defense, and manufacturing facilities, and preventing significant and long-lasting disruptions to global supply chains.

The GCPD contains approximately 5,220 square miles of land covering Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, and Orange counties.

## GCPD Board of Directors

### Governor Appointees

#### Terms expiring June 16, 2025:

- Sally Bakko (Municipal Interests)
- Michel Bechtel (Harris County)
- Roger Guenther (Ports)
- Bob Mitchell (Harris County)
- Lori Traweek (Environmental Interests)
- Sharon Hulgan (Industry)

### County Appointees

#### Terms expiring June 16, 2027:

- Billy Combs, Chambers County
- Roger Quiroga, Galveston County
- Commissioner Adrian Garcia, Harris County
- Allan Ritter, Jefferson County
- Commissioner Kirk Roccaforte, Orange County

### Contact Information

Nicole Sunstrum  
Executive Director  
info@gcpdtexas.com

[www.gcpdtexas.com](http://www.gcpdtexas.com)



## GCPD Timeline:

- **2018:** S2G Project authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2018 and funded by the Bipartisan Budget Act of 2018
- **June 16, 2021:** SB 1160 effective, formally launching the GCPD
- **August 18, 2021:** First GCPD Board Meeting, GCPD signs letter of intent (LOI) with US Army Corps of Engineers for the Coastal Texas Project
- **September 16, 2021:** Coastal Texas Study completed, Chief's Report signed
- **April 29, 2022:** GCPD signed partnership agreement (PPA) with USACE for the Orange County Project, a component of the S2G Project
- **December 23, 2022:** Coastal Texas Project authorized by the Water Resources Development Act of 2022
- **May 2023:** Texas Legislature appropriates \$550M for GCPD and its programs
- **July 12, 2023:** GCPD signs Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with USACE for the Coastal Texas Project

## Authorizing Legislation:

### SB 1160 87 (R):

- Passed the Texas legislature in 2021 to create the GCPD
- Bipartisan support
- Purpose:
  1. To serve as the non-Federal sponsor for portions of the Coastal Texas and S2G Projects located within GCPD territory
  2. To operate and maintain portions of the Coastal Texas and S2G Projects located within GCPD territory, once constructed

## Related Legislation:

### SB 500, 86 (R)

- Provided \$200 million in state funding for project costs and required non-Federal cost-share for all three projects included in the S2G Project
- Applicable Counties: Brazoria, Jefferson, Orange

### SB 1, 87 (R)

- Provided \$200 million in state funding for GCPD administrative costs, project costs, and non-Federal cost share for the S2G and Coastal Texas Projects within GCPD territory
- Applicable Counties: Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, and Orange

### HB 1, 88 (R)

- Provided \$550M in state funding for GCPD administrative costs, project costs, and non-Federal cost share for the S2G and Coastal Texas Projects within GCPD territory
- Applicable Counties: Chambers, Galveston, Harris, Jefferson, and Orange

## GCPD's Role in the Coastal Texas and S2G Projects

-  Non-federal sponsor
-  Sponsored by others, supported by GCPD
-  GCPD not involved



**Galveston Bay Storm Surge Barrier System**



**Coastwide Ecosystem Restoration Plan**



**South Padre Island Beach Nourishment Project**



**Orange County Project**



**Port Arthur Project**



**Freeport Project**



## Non-Federal Sponsor Responsibilities



Coordinate with USACE, project partners, and stakeholders

Support planning, design, and construction efforts led by USACE



Investigate and manage HTRW within lands needed for the project



Acquire lands, easements, rights-of way and disposal areas for the project and complete necessary utility relocations



Provide 35% of design and construction costs



Operate and maintain the project upon completion

