
VI. Conclusions and Recommendations

The information assimilated in this report has resulted in the following conclusions:

- There are a large number (over 169) of federal assistance projects and direct development projects whose implementation could have the potential to conflict with or further the goals and objectives of *The Galveston Bay Plan*.
- There are currently several such projects being considered which have the potential to be inconsistent, depending upon the actual design/implentation methods adopted.
- The GBP can have a major influence on the way the federally funded or federally conducted projects in the Galveston Bay region are designed, through consistency review.
- The coordinating efforts with other federal consistency review processes in the state provide the potential for an efficient consistency review strategy.

The following recommendations are made in light of these conclusions.

- The GBP should coordinate closely with the state SPOC and H-GAC to stay informed of any federal activities being considered in the future. Efforts should be made to coordinate with the sponsoring federal agency to ensure that these projects do not conflict with *The Galveston Bay Plan*.
- The Galveston Bay Council, when convened, should consider its role in the federal consistency review process, in order to formulate policies on how to prepare advice to the GBP during reviews.
- The GBP should stay closely involved with the development of the environmental documents associated with the current federal projects which have been identified as having the potential to be inconsistent with *The Galveston Bay Plan*.
- A handbook should be developed using excerpts from this report (i.e., Criteria, Map, TABLE I-A and I-B, and FIGURE 3). It should then be sent to all the federal agencies in TABLE I-A and I-B. A special introduction letter should be sent along with the handbook to those federal programs which are also listed in TABLE II.
- The TNRCC should conduct within-agency review of activities submitted to the TNRCC for consistency and certification under other programs, when those activities fall within the geographic area for *The Galveston Bay Plan*. This would include such programs as the 401 Certification program and the State NPS Program.