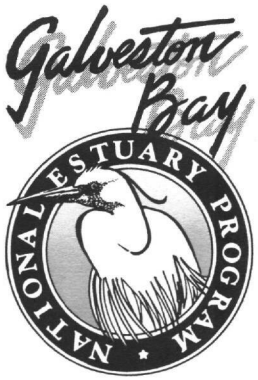

Policy Committee
The Honorable Rodney Ellis, Chair
Texas Senate

Mr. John Hall
Chair, Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission

Ms. Jane Saginaw
Regional Administrator, EPA Region 6

Mr. James Blackburn
Galveston Bay Foundation

Ms. Terry Hershey
Commissioner, Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission

Mr. Charles Miller
Past Chairman of the Board of Directors, Greater Houston Partnership

Mr. Charles W. Jenness
Chair, Texas Water Development Board

Local Governments Advisory Committee
The Honorable Ray Holbrook, Chair

Management Committee
Mr. Myron O. Knudson, Chair
Mr. Tom Remaley, Vice-Chair

Scientific/Technical Advisory Committee
Dr. Robert McFarlane, Chair
Ms. Teresa Battenfield, Vice-Chair

Citizen's Advisory Steering Committee
Ms. Sharron Stewart, Chair
Mr. Ron Embry, Vice-Chair

Galveston Bay Public Forum
Dr. Don Bass, Chair

Program Director
Dr. Frank S. Shipley

The Galveston Bay National Estuary Program

Texans increasingly express their expectations for a clean environment in terms of entire ecosystems. Until recently, our tendency was to view environmental problems in isolated pieces we could understand—indeed this view was institutionalized in an elaborate mosaic of fragmented jurisdictions. The Galveston Bay National Estuary Program (GBNEP) is a forerunner in elevating hands-on management of coastal environments to the level of the ecosystem; and in doing so, is encouraging an integration of traditionally disparate institutions.

The GBNEP was established under the authority of the Water Quality Act of 1987 to develop a *Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan* (CCMP) for Galveston Bay. The CCMP for Galveston Bay is titled *The Galveston Bay Plan*. The purpose of *The Galveston Bay Plan* is to address threats to the Bay resulting from pollution, development, and overuse. To address these threats, five years of work commenced in 1990, consisting of three phases: (1) identification of the specific problems facing the Bay; (2) a Bay-wide effort to compile data and information to describe status, trends, and probable causes related to the identified problems; and (3) creation of the CCMP itself to enhance governance of the Bay at the ecosystem level. The GBNEP is accomplishing this work through a cooperative agreement between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 6) and the State of Texas (administered by the Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission).

The structure of the GBNEP reflects a strong commitment to consensus-building among all Galveston Bay user groups, government agencies, and the public. The GBNEP "Management Conference" consists of six governor-appointed committees with broad representation. Meetings of these committees are open to the public, and public participation in policy-setting and in bay management are considered strengths of the program. When submitted to the Governor of Texas in late 1994, the CCMP will reflect thousands of hours of involvement (much in the form of volunteer time) by those who use, enjoy, or help govern the vital resources of Galveston Bay.

This document fulfills EPA requirements under Purpose 7 of Section 320 of the Water Quality Act of 1987 to provide a federal consistency review strategy to review federal assistance and development programs which may conflict with or strengthen the elements contained in *The Galveston Bay Plan*.