

Updates on Issues Related to Disaster Protection and Recovery

State Representative Dennis Paul
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1: Introduction: Representative Dennis Paul was elected to the House of Representatives in 2014. He represents House District 129, encompassing a portion of southeast Harris County. Representative Paul is currently serving in his fourth legislative session. Currently, he serves as a member of the House Natural Resources Committee and as a member of the House Committee on Insurance.

Representative Paul founded the Aerospace Legislative Caucus during his first session and became its first chairman. The Aerospace Caucus promotes initiatives to secure Texas' ranking as a world leader in space exploration, science, and security.

Representative Paul has been passionate about working on issues that help his local community. He has fought to support the Ellington field Space Port, Coastal barrier system, property and business tax cuts, and pension reform.

2: Objectives:

Gulf Coast Protection District -

- Background
 - SB 1160 authored by Senator Larry Taylor and Representative Dennis Paul. passed the Texas legislature in 2021 to create the Gulf Coast Protection District
- Purpose-
 - 1) To become the non-federal sponsor of the Coastal Texas (CT) and Sabine to Galveston (S2G) projects located in GCPD counties*
 - 2) Operate and maintain Coastal Texas and Sabine to Galveston projects upon completion
- Territory
 - *GCPD Territory: Chambers County, Galveston County, Harris County, Jefferson County, Orange County
- GCPD Timeline:
 - June 16, 2021: SB 1160 effective

- August 18, 2021: First GCPD Board Meeting, GCPD signs letter of intent (LOI) with US Army Corps of Engineers on Coastal Texas
- September 2021: Coastal Texas Study complete, Chief's Report signed
- January 2022: GCPD signs interlocal agreements with Orange County Drainage District and Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7
- Spring 2022: GCPD to sign project partnership agreement (PPA) with USACE on Orange County projects
- Summer 2022: 2022 Water Resources Development Act
- January 2023: 88th Legislative Session, Texas

Creation of State Flood Plan

- The 2019 Texas Legislature passed legislation to create Texas' first-ever regional and state flood planning process and provide funding for investments in flood science and mapping efforts to support plan development. The legislature created a state flood planning framework and charged the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) with creating flood planning regions based on river basins and administering the required, ongoing work of flood planning. This effort is aimed at better managing flood risk to reduce loss of life and property from flooding.
- Additionally, the legislature created a new flood financial assistance fund and charged the TWDB with administering the fund. The Flood Infrastructure Fund, as approved by Texas voters in November 2019, will be used to finance flood-related projects.
- Texas Water Code §16.061 requires regional flood planning groups to deliver regional flood plans to the TWDB on January 10, 2023, and every five years thereafter. The state flood plan, to be based on adopted regional plans, must be prepared and adopted by the TWDB by September 1, 2024, and every five years thereafter.
- Texas Water Code §16.062 requires the TWDB to designate flood planning regions and representatives from each region to serve as the initial regional flood planning group members. The TWDB will provide technical and financial support for the flood planning groups and adopt guidance principles for regional and state flood planning.

Updating state building code

- HB 738 updated the Texas State Building Code to the 2012 International Residential Code and the 2012 International Building Code