

# CITY OF LAREDO

## *Office of the City Manager*

November 19, 2014

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Attn: CECW-CE( Lisa Kiefel)  
441 G. Street NW  
Washington, DC 20314-1000

RE: US Army Corps of Engineers - Chacon Creek Feasibility Study

Dear Ms. Kiefel:

I respectfully request your support to finalize the Chacon Creek feasibility Study by Army Corps of Engineers-Fort Worth District. This feasibility study of the City of Laredo is being acted upon in response to the initial findings of the Reconnaissance Study as authorized by the Rio Grande Basin and Tributaries Texas, Resolution adopted by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, U.S. House of Representatives, House Resolution Docket 2547 dated March 11, 1998, Water Resource Development Act (WRDA) 1986, Section 729 as amended by WRDA 2000, Section 202, and House Resolution adopted May 21, 2003.

The Chacon Creek watershed is a major drainage encompassing 155 square miles within Webb County and drains the largest area in comparison to other watersheds that significantly impact the incorporated areas of Laredo. In 2008, the revised Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) for the incorporated segment of Chacon Creek revealed a dramatic increase in the number of properties within the Significant Flood Hazard Area (SFHA). According to the new map, 250 structures exist within the 100-year flood plain. These structures include 180 residential properties, 11 light industrial properties and 7 heavy industrial properties. As estimated from the findings of the study, a storm event producing runoff consistent with the 100-year recurrence interval volume would affect the lives and levy structural damages with a value of approximately \$20 million.

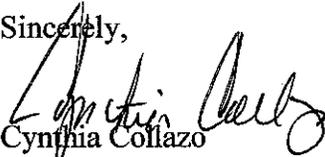
The City of Laredo has taken a proactive approach in order to promote responsible development and mitigate potential risks to property currently outside of the SFHA. One such action is the approval of a Storm Water Ordinance in 1999. Prior to the implementation of this Ordinance, storm water controls were not utilized by new developments. The City has also acquired properties within the 100-year flood plain

along Chacon Creek without federal assistance. The City of Laredo is committed to mitigating the risks and damages associated with flood prone areas. In September 2004, an inter-local agreement (50/50 match) with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers was executed for a feasibility study for the Chacon Creek and to aid the city in its commitment to protect life and property. The draft report was almost complete at the end of FY 2010. The Independent External Peer Review was completed in January 2011. The project is still awaiting study authority in order to finish the feasibility phase. To date the Corps of Engineers spent about \$1.6 million on this study including \$644,000.00 from the City of Laredo as matching funds.

It is the desire of our City to restore and preserve the diverse ecological resources unique to Laredo. The City Council has approved several ordinances to demonstrate this desire including the Storm Water Management Ordinance, the Flood Plain Management Ordinance and most importantly, the Green Space Preservation Ordinance. However, the magnitude of the project has extended the original completion date, and because of that, the Army Corps of Engineers' authorization has expired. Therefore, your assistance is requested to support the study authority to complete the feasibility study for the Chacon Creek Project.

Should you have any questions regarding the Chacon Creek Project, please contact Jodie Foster of USACE at 817-886-1679 or Riazul Mia, P.E, City of Laredo Environmental Services Director at (956)794-1650. Thank you for your consideration and support of this request.

Sincerely,

  
Cynthia Collazo  
Acting City Manager