OUR VIEWPOINT: Listening to locals the right approach

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Open the Mouth

In response to the Facts’ editorial, “Listening to locals the right approach” an element to the public’s opinion that has been glossed over by both the editorial and the Corps of Engineers public meeting/comments is how each project (changes to the Colorado locks and, more importantly for locals, the Brazos gates) will affect the surrounding area directly influenced by the current physical relationship and dynamic interface between the Brazos River floodgates and the closed mouth of the San Bernard River. Anything that happens to one element of the Intracoastal Canal affects the whole waterway and everything that touches it.

ABSTRACT: "This paper presents results of a hydrodynamic and geomorphologic study of the river and tidal flow at the intersection of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway (GIWW) and the San Bernard River, Texas, to develop alternatives for reducing the current flow in the GIWW. The hydrodynamic modeling indicates that the presently elongated and constricted river mouth (now completely closed), has greatly reduced the flow compared to a channel running straight into the Gulf of Mexico, its historic location. Relocation of the river mouth to its original position can reduce flow along the GIWW. The recommended alternative is to restore the migrating river mouth to its historic position." From the Civil Engineering database, a study titled, "Reduction of Unanticipated Intracoastal Waterway Current by Relocating the San Bernard River Mouth, Texas, by Dr. Nicholas C. Kraus, Research and Development, United States Army Corps of Engineers, 2002".

This study and other information concerning the San Bernard River mouth, its closure, and current effects on the GIWW and the local environment are available through links on www.sanbernardtexas.com