

Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
401 State Certification Request Form

1) Applicant's contact information:

Raul Sesin, P.E. CFM
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2) Description of the proposed project:

The Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 (HCDD1) is conducting the Raymondville Drain Project (RDP) to identify alternatives to address flood control issues in Hidalgo County and Willacy County, Texas. HCDD1 is the Non-Federal Sponsor (NFS) of the RDP. The RDP would consist of a diversion channel connecting the existing North Main Drain and the Raymondville Drain, improvements along the Raymondville Drain, a 272-acre detention pond located in Hidalgo County, and five control structures to regulate the flow of water. The proposed typical section of the new channel and the channel improvements would include a ROW 350-450 feet in width consisting of 10-foot-wide vegetative buffers and 20-foot-wide access roads on both sides, in-channel maintenance benches, and a pilot channel 60 feet wide and 5 feet deep; a 100-foot-wide spoil bank comprised of excavated soil would be located in the ROW on the right-hand side of the drain (when facing downstream) in select locations. The project limits of the RDP begin approximately 0.4 miles east of Edinburg Lake (western project terminus) and extend generally eastward to an unnamed private bridge approximately 2.0 miles north of the SH 186 bridge over the existing Raymondville Drain (eastern project terminus).

3) Identify the applicable federal license or permit for which 401 certification is being request and include the Corps permit project number and Corps project manager:

The RDP may require an Individual Permit. Approximately 25.03 acres of potentially jurisdictional wetlands would be impacted by the implementation of the recommended plan. Wetland delineation activities were completed prior to changes in the regulatory definition of jurisdictional wetlands; therefore, the jurisdictional status of wetlands that would be impacted by the RDP would be re-assessed prior to the submittal of the permit application.

The Corps permit project number would be determined following the submittal of the permit application. Franchelle Nealy is the US Army Corps of Engineers project manager for the RDP.

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4) Identify the location and nature of any potential discharge (i.e., fill, dredged material placement area return water) that may result from the proposed project and the location of the receiving waters:

The existing Raymondville Drain would be dredged to expand the channel. Fill material would be placed in select areas along the RDP right-of-way to construct the proposed spoil bank; the spoil bank would not be constructed in wetland areas. Excess dredged fill material would be disposed of in the closest available permitted facility.

If project is located in the Coastal Zone, please indicate if impacts to Coastal Critical Areas are proposed and include acreage of impact to those areas. Coastal Critical Areas include: coastal wetland, oyster reef, hard substrate reef, submerged aquatic vegetation, or a tidal sand or mud flat (as defined in 31 Texas Administrative Code §501.3).

A total of 0.12 acre of permanent impacts to coastal wetlands (as defined in 31 TAC §501.3) are anticipated to occur as a result of the RDP. A seagrass survey was conducted in April 2023; no impacts to any other Coastal Critical Areas are anticipated.

5) Describe any proposed methods and means to monitor the discharge and the equipment or measures planned to treat, control, or manage the discharge, (i.e., best management practices).

Soil that is excavated within the vicinity of potential hazardous materials sites, including wastewater treatment plants, would be tested for toxicity prior to being discharged. Methods used to test excavated soil for toxicity would comply with applicable standards published by ASTM International and approved by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

6) Include a list of all other federal, interstate, tribal, state, territorial, or local agency authorizations required for the proposed project, including all approvals or denials already received.

The RDP is anticipated to require the following authorizations:

- Finding of No Significant Impact from the US Army Corps of Engineers
- Clean Water Act Section 404 permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers
- Biological Opinion from the US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Texas Antiquities Permit from the Texas Historical Commission
- Determination of consistency with the Texas Coastal Management Plan from the Texas General Land Office

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7) Include documentation that a prefiling meeting request was submitted to the certifying authority (TCEQ) at least 30 days prior to submitting this certification request.

A completed prefiling meeting request was provided to the TCEQ in January 2026.

8) "The project proponent hereby certifies that all information contained herein is true, accurate, and complete, to best of my knowledge and belief. The project proponent hereby requests that the certifying authority review and take action on this CWA 401 certification request within the applicable reasonable period of time."

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Important Note:

Please fill out and return this form to 401CERTS@tceq.texas.gov and cc the Corps project manager.

If this is a Tier 1 project, please attach the [Tier I Checklist](#).

If this is a Tier 2 project, please attach:

- 1) a copy of the Corps 404 permit application,
- 2) [Tier II 401 Questionnaire and Alternatives Analysis Checklist](#).

Tier 1 projects are those that impact less than 3 acres of wetlands or 1,500 linear feet of stream or shoreline, or any combination of the two, where 500 linear feet of stream or shoreline is equivalent to one acre of wetland. Tier II projects are those with impacts that exceed Tier impact thresholds.