

BAHEP extends its sincere appreciation for the continued support of the *Houston Chronicle* through this monthly supplement.

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Legislators stress need to move forward on storm surge protection system for Texas coast

The Joint Interim Committee to Study a Coastal Barrier met on April 11, 2016, at Texas A&M University at Galveston to hear testimony on the progress of plans to protect the upper Texas Gulf Coast from storm surge. The committee heard consistent testimony that a comprehensive system is necessary to protect Galveston Bay, and an integral part of that system

should be a coastal spine.

Bob Mitchell, president of the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership, provided testimony during the hearing and later commented, "It was gratifying to find that all of the committee members were up-to-date on the issues concerning storm surge. They understood and were very supportive of the coastal spine and the continuation of work to develop a plan.

"Personally, I think that the meeting could not have produced better results. After years of hard work by a large group of individuals and organizations, it's a wonderful feeling to know that we are now making headway."

Funding and timing will continue to be challenges, since project studies take many months at considerable cost. Many of the scientists and engineers

told the committee that they didn't have the funds to carry out environmental assessments of their proposals. Without these assessments, the true cost and feasibility of their proposals cannot be determined.

TAMUG's Dr. Bill Merrell, who developed the coastal spine concept, also cited the need for funding. Committee Co-chair Rep. Joe Deshotel

agreed stating, "I don't think it should be that way."

"Certainly we can help you with that," said state Sen. Lois Kolkhorst.

It was noted that a study by the Army Corps of Engineers will take at least five years to complete with the actual building of a system taking place sometime in the distant future.

Sen. Larry Taylor, committee co-chair, told Col. Richard Pannell, commander of the Army Corps' Galveston District, "Your normal process is longer than I want to take." Due to the project's national interest, Taylor said that the state should consider skipping the Army Corps process and seek a direct appropriation



In September 2008, Hurricane Ike devastated Gilchrist, Texas. (Chronicle photo by Smiley N. Pool)

from Congress.

Texas Land Commissioner George P. Bush has declared that hurricane protection will be his top priority for the 2017 legislative session.

Cybersecurity awareness luncheon planned for Galveston County

Kim Morris, director of the Bay Area Houston Advanced Technology Consortium, or BayTech, has met with Bix Rathburn, Ph.D., director of Economic Development for Galveston County, to plan for a cybersecurity awareness luncheon that BayTech will conduct in Galveston County in mid-September.

Previously, BayTech has conducted three-hour workshops involving speakers with domain knowledge of cybersecurity issues. These workshops have been well received within Harris County.

Their purpose has been to raise awareness of the cybersecurity threat to area industries, municipalities, and governments, share lessons learned, and provide access to resources for organizations as they enhance their cybersecurity posture and responsiveness.

The upcoming luncheon will focus on a specific cybersecurity area of interest, which might focus on incident response, trends in cybersecurity attacks, IT architectures and frameworks, social engineering, or protecting against insider threats.

The luncheon will be designed for organizational decision makers, managers, executives, and leaders with the intent of raising the awareness level of this group to the growing cybersecurity threat and urge proactive measures to protect the region's economic vitality.



Galveston County industry, businesses, academia, and government will be

invited to attend.

BayTech is a 501(c)(3) technology consortium that brings together academia, industry, NASA-Johnson Space Center and the State of

Texas. BayTech pursues federal and private research and technology development funding that will create jobs, retain the work force and knowledge base, generate new revenue streams, and maximize opportunities for Texas and the Houston-Galveston region.

BAHEP welcomes three diverse companies as newest members of organization

Lillibridge Healthcare Services, Inc.

Lillibridge Healthcare Services, Inc., (LHS) is one of the largest owners of medical office buildings (MOBs) in the nation. Lillibridge's owned / managed portfolio of 450+ MOBs and ambulatory facilities spans 24 million square feet in 32 states/DC and 250+ markets. The company's Houston office has joined the Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership.



Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president, stated, "Medical services are a major economic driver in Houston, and this industry continues to expand rapidly within our service area. It is an opportune time for Lillibridge Healthcare Services, Inc., to establish deeper roots within the region."

Representing LHS within BAHEP will be Susan Shepard, regional manager, Jinny Saad, leasing manager, and Laura Williams, property manager. Currently LHS owns / manages two buildings in Webster, two buildings in east Houston, and one building in Tomball.

Saad commented, "In general, we partner with health systems across the country to provide high quality medical office space to their hospitals and physicians. We see so much potential in Bay Area Houston and are excited to be a part of the BAHEP organization."

About Lillibridge Healthcare Services, Inc., and Ventas, Inc.

Lillibridge has been a leader in the healthcare real estate industry for nearly three decades. The com-

pany provides management and leasing, facility development and advisory services to highly rated hospitals and health systems throughout the United States. Lillibridge's portfolio spans more than 450 owned and managed MOBs totaling 24 million square feet across 250+ markets in 32 states/DC. Lillibridge is a wholly owned subsidiary of Ventas Inc., (NYSE: VTR) an S&P 500 company and a leading real estate investment trust.

Its highly diversified portfolio consists of nearly 1,300 seniors housing and healthcare properties in the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom. Find more information about Lillibridge and Ventas at www.lillibridge.com and www.ventasreit.com. Locally, Lillibridge Healthcare Services, Inc., is located at 13111 East Freeway, Suite 203, Houston, Texas 77015. Call 713.451.7011.

TASC, an Engility company

TASC, an Engility company, has been in the space business for 50 years and trusted with some of the most critical space systems and missions and other critical programs in the U.S. government. In February 2015, TASC merged with Engility Corporation, resulting in a \$2 billion-plus company with about 10,000 employees that delivers high-end technical services to many Federal government customers across the defense, intelligence, space, and civilian sectors. TASC's core capabilities include engineering; systems engineering and integration; program management; mission assurance; and cyber/information technology security. The company

supports all space mission domain areas including: spacecraft; payloads; launch vehicles; ground systems; command, control, and communication; data processing; and launch/mission operations. TASC's Houston office has joined BAHEP and the BAHEP Aerospace Advisory Committee.

"With Bay Area Houston being home to NASA Johnson Space Center, the Houston Spaceport, and Ellington Airport, it stands to reason that a dynamic company like TASC would have a presence in the region. The company is a great fit for BAHEP and its other aerospace members as we all work together in support of NASA and the emerging commercial space industry," said BAHEP President Bob Mitchell.

Gabe Garrett, senior manager of business development for TASC, will

and exploitation." Hynes added, "Our longtime space heritage and broad exposure to the space industry including the national security, civilian, and commercial programs, allows us to uniquely share diverse best practices and lessons

learned for the benefit of our space customers."

TASC's principal space customers include

NASA; the National Reconnaissance Office; the U.S. Air Force, Army, Navy; Missile Defense Agency; and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. At NASA, one of TASC's key roles is serving as the agency-wide primary provider of independent verification and validation (IV&V) services for mission-critical software.

In Houston, they support JSC with IV&V services for the International Space Station and Orion Programs' critical software.

TASC's Houston office is located at 2222 Bay Area Boulevard. TASC has other offices in more than 40 states and 50 countries. Call 281.455.0822 or visit www.tasc.com and www.engilitycorp.com.

Chris Reed Consulting

With over 25 years' experience in municipal government, including 15 years of command experience as a city manager and assistant police chief, Chris Reed, CEO of Chris Reed Consulting, brings a lot to the table.

"We got to know Chris well over the past five years when he served as city manager of Nassau Bay. His extensive and

varied background is an excellent foundation for a successful consulting business. We are very happy to welcome him as a new member of Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership," stated Bob Mitchell, BAHEP president.



Chris Reed Consulting

Reed commented, "I am quite familiar with the great work that BAHEP does, and I knew that joining the organization would be mutually beneficial in many ways. In fact, the first check that I wrote when I formed Chris Reed Consulting was for membership in BAHEP. I look forward to our continued work on behalf of regional development."

Chris Reed Consulting (CRC) specializes in municipal consulting, business development, executive security and acquisition facilitation. Working with developers and private investors, CRC assists with municipal acquisitions and provides services that address permits, local, state and federal requirements, appealing decisions, and Tax Reinvestment Zones, as well as key equipment and machinery purchases for municipal management districts. CRC's municipal consulting services include executive recruitment, police department dynamics, tax and grant optimization, procurement, vendor selection, economic development opportunities, state and local lobby needs, employee training/team development, project management, and police department union negotiations.

CRC is located at 957 NASA Parkway, #511, Houston, Texas 77058. Call 832.265.9024 or visit the company's website, www.chrisreedconsulting.com.

BUSINESS to BUSINESS is a monthly Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership publication in partnership with the *Houston Chronicle*. BAHEP is a member-driven organization in southeastern Texas that includes more than 265 business partners encompassing 14 cities, Galveston and Harris counties, the Houston Airport System, and the Port of Houston Authority. For membership information, contact Membership Director Harriet Lukee at 832.536.3250. Bay Area Houston Economic Partnership 18045 Saturn Lane Houston, TX 77058 832.536.3255 "Like" us on Facebook: [BayAreaHoustonEcon](https://www.facebook.com/BayAreaHoustonEcon) Follow us on Twitter: @BAHEP