

# **Ike Dike is proven surge suppression concept**

**By MARK A. DENMAN | Posted: Wednesday, July 16, 2014 12:15 am, The Galveston County Daily News**



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Residents of our coastal region will not soon forget Hurricane Ike and its devastating storm surge.

While high winds, torrential rains and the resulting spinoff tornadoes are forces to be reckoned with, storm surge entering Galveston Bay tends to increase in height as it moves further up into the bay, endangering human life, destroying property and damaging sensitive ecosystems.

A comprehensive flood gate and barrier system along the Gulf Coast, including San Luis Pass, Bolivar Peninsula and the inlets of the Houston, Galveston and Texas City ship channels would provide necessary protection for the Houston-Galveston region, particularly the areas surrounding Galveston Bay.

The Ike Dike concept, a coastal barrier system, looks to existing technology created and used effectively in The Netherlands.

In 2010, the Texas Governor's Commission on Recovery and Renewal reviewed this barrier system proposal and recommended a six-county public corporation known as the

Gulf Coast Community Protection and Recovery District be established to explore viable options for storm surge protection of the Houston-Galveston region.

In April, the Nassau Bay City Council approved a resolution supporting the Ike Dike concept as proposed by Texas A&M University at Galveston's Bill Merrell as being the most effective and equitable means of protecting Nassau Bay and the entire Houston-Galveston region from storm surge.

The cost of constructing this project would be a mere fraction of the cost of property damage, lost productivity and environmental cleanup incurred after a major hurricane. The Ike Dike concept can be seen at [www.tamug.edu/ikedike](http://www.tamug.edu/ikedike). Please contact your state and federal legislators representing your area to make the Ike Dike concept a reality before the next major storm strikes our area.

As history so clearly shows us, the time to prepare is now.