

8-382-03

Date 9-15-2003 by

D

## SURVEYORS REPORT ON THE

MEAN HIGHER HIGH WATER LINE SURVEY OF PART OF THE SOUTHERLY SHORELINE OF THE STEPHEN F. AUSTIN SURVEY, ABSTRACT 28 AND THE MEAN HIGH WATER LINE SURVEY OF PART OF SOUTHERLY SHORELINE OF THE JOHN G. MCNEEL SURVEY, ABSTRACT 335 BOTH OF BRAZORIA COUNTY, TEXAS

I surveyed the line of Mean Higher High Water of part of the Southerly shoreline of the Stephen F. Austin Survey, Abstract 28 and the Mean High Water Line of part of the Southerly shoreline of the John G. McNeel Survey, Abstract 6 335 both of Brazoria County, Texas, as authorized by Peter Ravella, Coastal Management Director, Coastal Technology Corporation and in my capacity as Licensed State Land Surveyor for the State of Texas.

## HISTORY

NRC. Art. 33.136 The Stephen F. Austin Survey of One Third League of land surveyed by Thomas H. Borden and Titled out of Mexico on May 31, 1828 as found in the GLO Spanish Collection field notes in Volume 2, Page 608 in the Archives and Records Division of the General Land Office, Austin, Texas.

The John G. McNeel Survey is a First Class Headright Grant from the Republic of Texas of One Half League of land as surveyed by Authur Hemie, District Surveyor on August 10, 1838 as found in the Archives and Records Division of the General Land Office, Austin, Texas.

## CONSTRUCTION

An Act to adapt the Common Law of England was approved on January 20, 1840. The Littoral State boundary of land granted prior to this date must be surveyed according to the Spanish and Mexican Civil Laws and is determined to be along the Mean Higher High Water Line. Lands granted after this date are to be located along the Mean High Water Line as required under current Common Law. The John G. McNeel Survey was surveyed in 1838, but the patent was not issued until 1850. The case Rudder v Ponder, established that lands surveyed under the Civil Law but did not receive their Patent from the Republic or State of Texas until after the adoption of the Common Law were to be surveyed under the current Common law line of the Mean High Water.

The elevation of the Mean Higher High Water line on this project site was established. The FREEPORT, DOW BARGE CANAL, TEXAS (NOS Station Id: 8772440) Tidal Benchmarks 2440-A, 2440-B, 2440-C and 2440-D were tied to NGS monument

counter 80125

CAPTAIN (NGS PID AM0078) utilizing Trimble RTK with 2 Meter fixed height poles. The published Mean High Water and the Mean Higher High Water elevations from NOS Tide Gauge FREEPORT (1997-2001 epoch) were then transferred to the shoreline of the Gulf of Mexico and are described and shown on the attached survey.

Under the Mexican Civil Law, a river or creek was considered property of the Sovereign if it was a Perennial or continuously flowing body of water. On the other hand, a river or creek was considered private if it flowed only after rains or intermittently and it was called an Annual stream. All water that was subject to the ebb and flow of the tides was to be considered tidal, and reserved to the sovereign. The Mean Higher High Water line as shown on the accompanying survey of even date, crosses a small pond drain. The captive water due to Tropical Storm Claudette has cut this drainage channel through the beach as shown. On my previous visit before Tropical Storm Claudette, the drainage channel was not there and the beach was consistent in its profile. I feel the drainage channel is a temporary escape route for impounded storm water, and should not be considered tidal water or a perennial stream. The line I surveyed crosses the drainage channel to the point of Mean Higher high Water to the Southwest.

Sidney Bouse

Licensed State Land Surveyor

