

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

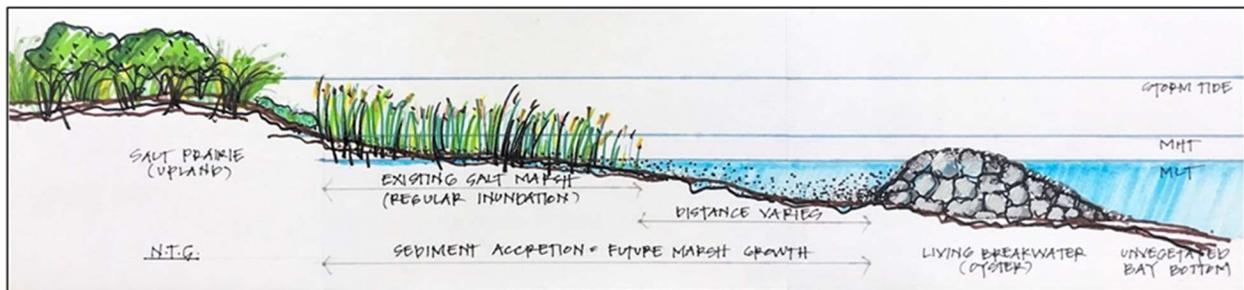
Contact: Jim Blackburn

Phone: 713-501-9007 | blackbur@rice.edu

BCarbon Shoreline Protection and Restoration Project Secures Funding from Valero

HOUSTON (June 15, 2022) - BCarbon has received a grant from Valero Energy Corporation (“Valero”) that will fund the detailed design and carbon credit model for a 1,000-mile living shoreline along the Texas coast. Upon completion of this research, BCarbon will begin to issue carbon credits to the developers of coastal living shorelines that protect our coastal wetlands from the impact of sea level rise.

The concept of a 1000-mile living shoreline project was recently released by the Texas Coastal Exchange (TCX) in conjunction with BCarbon. Living shorelines involve the construction of oyster reef-breakwater systems that will protect coastal wetlands from erosion helping Texas coastal wetlands survive for generations into the future.



Living shoreline illustration by Lalise Mason for TCX

The Valero funding will enable BCarbon to fund researchers, such as the Harte Research Institute and AECOM engineering, to assist in the design of these oyster reef-breakwater systems and a carbon credit protocol. This protocol will establish a scientifically-sound methodology to help fund the construction of the breakwaters. Through the BCarbon project, many of the 500,000 acres of coastal marsh could be protected from erosion. Each acre of coastal wetlands represents about 400 tons of CO₂ removed from the atmosphere and currently stored in the soil – carbon that would be lost but for these living shoreline breakwaters. Additionally, these marshes are expected to remove and store an additional 3 to 4 tons of CO₂ per acre per year.

“It is hard to overstate the importance of the Valero funding to the future of the Texas coast”, says Jim Blackburn, the CEO of BCarbon. “This support will lead to the development of a new



carbon credit protocol, which could bring novel funding sources to Texas coastal conservation and GHG reduction.”

Chris Levitz, an AECOM project coastal engineer, says “we are very excited to be involved in this innovative research effort where we can implement solutions at a scale that will make a real difference.”

Ultimately, this research will lead to an increase in the oyster populations of the bays and estuaries of the Texas coast. While unlikely to be a source of oyster harvesting, these constructed reefs, over time, will be colonized by oysters and, in turn, provide new sources of oyster spat (juvenile oysters), to amplify oyster productivity coastwide – another aspect of the living shoreline concept.

According to Lalise Mason, lead designer for TCX, “The hope is that these reef-breakwaters will become a key aspect of the infrastructure of the Texas coast for the future. This project could be a game-changer for the Texas coast.”

About BCarbon: BCarbon, a 501(c)(3) organization, was formed in 2021 from a stakeholder group out of the Baker Institute at Rice University. BCarbon certifies measured increases in nature-based carbon stocks for carbon credit trading and has received funding from private individuals, philanthropic organizations, and corporations. For more information, please visit www.bcarbon.org.

About Texas Coastal Exchange (TCX): TCX is a 501(c)(3) organization that was formed in 2017 from research conducted by the Severe Storm Prediction, Education and Evacuation from Disaster (SSPEED) Center at Rice University. TCX has been accepting donations and making grants to Texas coastal landowners for carbon sequestration. Earlier in 2022, TCX released the concept of building a thousand miles of living shoreline along the Texas coast. For more information, please visit <https://www.texascoastalexchange.org/>.

###