



## Lifeguard Observation Towers Coastal Hazard Preventative

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# FINAL REPORT #20-314-000-C915

## LIFEGUARD OBSERVATION TOWERS COASTAL HAZARD PREVENTATIVE

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### Overview:

The Lifeguard Observation Towers Coastal Hazard Preventative project was brought forward in the need to provide safer public access from coastal hazards presented along the Gulf Coast. The Texas General Land Office Coastal Management Program awarded and partnered with the City of South Padre Island to produce six lifeguard towers to be placed along the City's shoreline. Towers were built offsite and finalized on the beachfront to meet desired Beach Patrol standards.

### Task 1: Advertise and Award Contract for Design/Bid

On May 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021, the advertisement for the invitation to bid was released to the public. Advertisements ran for two consecutive weeks with a pre-bid conference meeting held May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. One bid was received and opened on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021, at 2:00 pm from Westar Construction. The bid was reviewed initially by the Shoreline Task Force on June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 then recommended to City Council for the June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2021 meeting where the bid was awarded to Westar. A contract was executed between the City of South Padre Island and Westar and was finalized on July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Westar submitted the initial announcement designs for use and built towers to scope with review from the GLO.



### Public Notice: Invitation to Bid for Lifeguard Observation Towers Coastal Hazard Prevention



The City of South Padre Island is soliciting an Invitation to Bid (ITB) until 2:00 pm on Thursday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021, from experienced contractors to provide services for the construction of six Lifeguard Towers. The selected contractor will need to provide building plans, cost estimates, and a timeline. Towers will include a supply closet, wrap-around decking, shade structure, and built-in removable halves pending storm events. The ITB packet is available on the City's website at [www.myspi.org](http://www.myspi.org). All inquiries regarding the ITB should be directed to Kristina Boburka at 956-761-8101 or via email at [kboburka@myspi.org](mailto:kboburka@myspi.org).

ITB's are due by **2:00 pm on June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2021**, after which all qualified responses will be opened and acknowledged at 4601 Padre Boulevard South Padre Island, Texas 78597. Any bids received after the specified deadline will be returned unopened.

## Task 2: Construction and Sign Installation



Figure 1. Initial Tower Construction

Several meetings were held between the Beach Patrol and Shoreline Departments to ensure efficient and practical final designs for the towers. The first phase of operational changes resulted in Figure 3, while the final agreement settled for the optimal building in Figure 4. The final tower design includes a storage bench/seat, stairs that can be stored when the towers

are not in use, breezeway panels, flag holder for marine hazards, signage on riptides/flag coloring system, duty signs, and the GLO/NOAA grant funding signage. These towers will help monitor and prevent marine hazards with adequate visual aid, location sourcing for tourism, and base operations. The towers were finalized in December 2021.

Westar constructed the Towers offsite and delivered them to South Padre Island in August 2021. Figure 1 shows how the towers originally arrived and were placed on the beach. The six towers were placed at heavy traffic locations along the City beachfront marked in Figure 2.



Figure 2. Lifeguard Tower Locations



Figure 3. Preliminary Additions



Figure 4. Final Build

Signage is a key part of public safety and regulations. The front of each tower hosts a lifeguard off-duty sign when procedures are not taking place. The back of the tower shown in Figure 5 holds three signs which include rip currents, a flag warning system, and the GLO/NOAA funding allocation notice.

### Task 3: Building, Placement of Towers, and Sign Installation

Final approval, design, and placement of the towers passed on September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021. One tower was built to the scope and submitted for approval. Once the final design in Figure 4 was sanctioned, the remaining towers were built to that standard. All placement locations of the primary map stayed consistent and no tower has been relocated from its original space. Towers were built to be moveable for any high tide or storm surge events, the towers will be lifted off the beach and placed for storage till they are safe to return. All signs have been posted for beachgoer information.



Figure 5. Signage

## Final Towers:



Tower 1 North Claytons



Tower 2 South Claytons



Tower 3 Wanna Wanna



Tower 4 Coco Beach



Tower 5 Saida



Tower 6 Sapphire

## Closeout:

The City of South Padre is excited about the use of the new Lifeguard Observation Towers as a Coastal Hazard Preventative measure this season and many to follow. The City would like to thank the CMP team for their work alongside the City throughout the entire project from reporting to ensuring the safety of Texas coastlines. We greatly look forward to working together again soon.

Erika Hughston, Coastal Coordinator

02.22.2022

Date

