

THE WHITE HOUSE

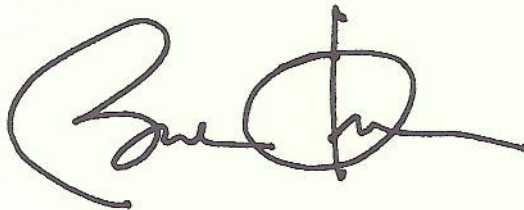
WASHINGTON

November 23, 2009

Congratulations on receiving the Coastal America 2008 Partnership Award for the North Deer Island Protection Project. The award recognizes outstanding partnerships that make a significant contribution toward the restoration and protection of our Nation's coastal environment. It is the only environmental award of its kind given by the President of the United States.

Through the collaborative efforts between Federal, state, and local governments as well as nongovernmental organizations and the private sector, we achieved an outstanding environmental victory for the Galveston Bay. The project stabilized nearly two miles of shoreline that was once rapidly eroding—ensuring the long-term protection of the most important colonial waterbird rookery on the upper Texas coast. As a result of this effort, nesting and foraging sites for tens of thousands of waterbirds from nineteen species will be sustained for years to come. The conservation of this diverse critical upland and estuarine habitat also provides nursery areas for important fish and shellfish.

I applaud and support you in your efforts to bring together resources to meet common goals and better our coastal environment. Please accept my sincere congratulations and best wishes for your continued success.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Barack Obama", written in a cursive style.