

Please use Permit NO. **WQ0016342001** when commenting electronically and/or in writing.

Sample Comment to TCEQ:

Recently I learned that Space Exploration Technologies has applied for a permit to TCEQ for authorization to treat and discharge 200,000 gallons per day of wastewater into South Bay.

I strongly oppose any permit that would allow the discharge of any treated water into South Bay. The health and well being of the residents in the communities in proximity to South Bay that depend on and enjoy its vital waters will be severely affected. Namely, South Padre Island, Port Isabel, Long Island Village, Laguna Heights, Laguna Vista, Los Fresnos, San Roman and Bayview. The many recreational and commercial fishing, tourism, kayaking, birding and naturalist businesses and individuals that rely on this highly sensitive ecosystem for sustenance, recreation and pleasure will be directly impacted by foul smelling odors from our prevailing 15-18 mph SSE winds, increased contaminated waters from chemically treated discharges, degradation of water quality and salinity, contamination of aquatic life, and depletion of essential fish habitats. South Bay is the southernmost end of the Laguna Madre. Lined with black mangroves, it is hypersaline, extremely shallow, and a richly productive nursery and foraging opportunity for fish and dolphins, shellfish (including oysters), crustaceans and birds. It was deemed so ecologically important that it was named the first Texas Coastal Preserve in 1984. It is fragile and irreplaceable. South Bay's hypersalinity and shallow bottom makes it an ideal dolphin nursery as baby dolphins need 1 full year to increase enough fat not to sink and drown. Mother dolphins keep their babies in South Bay for this reason. SpaceX must continue its pump and haul protocol for their waste.

Therefore, I urge TCEQ to schedule a public meeting so that our community voices may be heard and put on record and where we can receive answers to our numerous concerns regarding this permit.

Thank you!