



## **HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL**

3555 Timmons Lane, Suite 120

Houston, TX 77027

[h-gac.com](http://h-gac.com) | [@HouGalvAreaCog](https://twitter.com/HouGalvAreaCog)

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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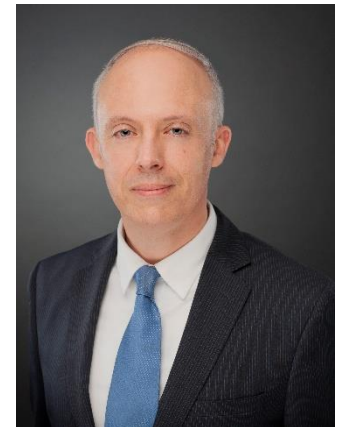
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### **HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL ANNOUNCES JUSTIN BOWER AS NEW DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PLANNING**

**HOUSTON** – The Houston-Galveston Area Council (H-GAC) recently announced it has hired Justin Bower as its new director of community and environmental planning. He began his new position on Jan. 30. Bower succeeds Jeff Taebel, who retired last spring after 35 years of service.

As community and environmental director, Bower will lead the agency’s natural resources, disaster resilience, community planning, and public safety programs.

“The past few years have been an exciting period of change for H-GAC,” said Bower. “As director, I am humbled to have the opportunity to help highlight the important work our Community and Environmental Planning Department is doing for the 13-county region and its residents, and to work with our partners to expand our impact.”



For the past 13 years, Bower has served at H-GAC in the Community and Environmental Planning Department to further the agency’s mission to support communities in improving water quality, disaster resilience, and conservation efforts. He holds a master’s degree in urban affairs and public policy from the University of Delaware and has spent more than 20 years leading natural resources and urban planning efforts for a variety of local government and nongovernmental organizations.

Bower has a passion for bringing together partners and resources to enhance the Houston-Galveston region’s natural and community resilience. As part of a lifelong love of the natural world, he is actively involved in many leadership roles with natural resource efforts in the region.

“H-GAC is well-positioned to be a leader in addressing key opportunities and challenges that impact health, safety, and quality of life in our region – issues like storm resiliency, conservation, water quality and resources, equitable housing, public safety, and solid waste management,” said Bower. “I’m looking forward to working closely with our local governments

#### **Houston-Galveston Area Council**

H-GAC is a voluntary association of local governments and local elected officials from the 13-county Gulf Coast planning region, which includes an area of 12,500 square miles and more than 7 million people. H-GAC works to promote efficient and accountable use of local, state, and federal tax dollars; serves as a problem-solving and information forum for local governments; and helps analyze trends and conditions affecting the region. For more information, visit [h-gac.com](http://h-gac.com).



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and community partners in developing strong, sustainable solutions to these issues that will ensure this region continues to be a great place to live, work, and thrive for decades to come.”

For more information about H-GAC’s community and environmental programs, visit [h-gac.com](http://h-gac.com).

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