

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year/500-year Floodplain

To: All interested Federal, State, and Local Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Fort Bend County has determined that the following proposed action under Texas General Land Office – Office of Community Development and Revitalization (GLO) Hurricane Harvey Disaster Recovery Program and GLO Contract #20-065-092-C257 is located in the 100-year/500-year floodplain, and Fort Bend County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain/wetland and the potential impacts on the floodplain/wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed activities include discharging approximately 6,158 cubic yards of fill material into a 5.1-mile segment of Big Creek that is located north of FM Road 2977. The project components within the 5.1-mile segment of Big Creek will consist of laying back the existing side slopes to create slopes with an estimated 3:1 ratio, to widen the bottom channel width of Big Creek to a distance of 30-to-40-foot-wide to create new floodplains, to deepen the stream bed to 19-foot-deep, to install six weir/pool complexes, to install four weirs at the mouths of adjacent tributaries connecting to Big Creek, and to construct wetlands at or near the existing overbank drainpipes. A benthic organism conservation plan for the existing bottom was designed and will be implemented by excavating and moving the streambed, and its benthic community, intact, with a track hoe. This project will have a positive direct impact to surrounding properties by reducing repetitive flood impacts by increasing the creek's functional capacity. Approximately 115-acres of floodplains/wetlands are expected to be impacted by this proposed 116.2-acre project. The proposed project is located in Big Creek, a man-altered waterway bisected by Highway 36, in Pleak, Fort Bend County, Texas.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains/wetlands and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain/wetland, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains/wetlands can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains/wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Fort Bend County at the following address on or before July 8, 2021 Fort Bend County, 301 Jackson St., Suite 602, Richmond, Fort Bend County, TX 77469 and 281-341-4410, Attention: Honorable KP George, County Judge. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at 301 Jackson St. Suite 602, Richmond, Fort Bend County, TX 77469. Comments may also be submitted via email at carol.borrego@fortbendcountytexas.gov.

Date: June 6, 2021