



Texas General Land Office

PUBLIC NOTICE

Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS AND FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARD (FFRMS) FLOODPLAIN AND WETLANDS

October 15, 2025

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

These notices shall satisfy three separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Texas General Land Office (GLO) on behalf of the Harris County Flood Control District.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about October 31, 2025, the GLO will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on behalf of the Harris County Flood Control District for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds appropriated under the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirement Act, 2017 (Pub. L. 115-56) and the Further Additional Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (Pub. L. 115-123), as amended, to undertake a project known as the Keegans Bayou Drainage Improvement project for the purpose of improving stormwater conveyance and decreasing flood risk within the Brays Bayou watershed through construction of a wet bottom stormwater detention basin with 114.15-acre feet of detention capacity, permanent and temporary access roads, inflow weirs, and an outfall structure, at a total cost of \$15,961,171.02, located north of Keegans Bayou D118-00-00 and just south of the intersection of Old Richmond Road and Synott Road in southwest Houston, Harris County.

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) Floodplain and Wetlands

This is to give notice that GLO, under 24 CFR Part 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order(s) 11988 and Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) Program, GLO Contract# 24-033-000-E072 and HUD grant IDs B-17-DM-48-0001; B-18-DP-48-0001. The proposed project is located north of Keegans Bayou D118-00-00 and just south of the intersection of Old Richmond Road and Synott Road in southwest Houston, Harris County and is in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2 percent flood approach. The stormwater



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detention basin will occupy approximately 19.38 acres of wooded land and will improve stormwater conveyance and decrease flood risk in this area through construction of a wet bottom stormwater detention basin with 114.15-acre feet of detention capacity, permanent and temporary access roads, inflow weirs, and an outfall structure. The purpose of the project is to alleviate flooding within the Brays Bayou watershed, particularly in the adjacent area around Old Richmond Road and Synott Road, by maximizing floodwater storage capacity and flood damage along Keegans Bayou for storm events up to and including the 100-year event.

Construction activities include the excavation and grading of a 13.82-acre wet-bottom SWDB with maintenance berm; a 128-foot-wide stream overflow weir; and a 48" outfall drainage pipe, constructed above the OHWM. The property where the proposed project is situated is fully owned by the Flood Control District, and no land acquisition is required, therefore, no displacement of residents or businesses will occur. The location of the proposed SWDB adjacent to Keegans Bayou (D118-00-00) allows the offline-positioned basin to function in-sync hydrologically with the bayou during higher frequency storm events, collecting and holding water, and therefore reducing flood risk.

Based on the effective Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) FIRMs, the entire project area is mapped in the 100-year floodplain (Zone AE) (1% annual chance of flood) and designated floodway of Keegans Bayou. Of the project activities that will occur in a FEMA-designated Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), approximately 7.85 acres will occur in Zone AE 100-year floodplain, and 0.081 acres will occur in the designated floodway. There are no wetland impacts associated with this project.

GLO has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain: Alternative 1) Larger in-line basin situated on either side of Keegans Bayou and 2) No Action. The larger SWDB would include an inflow weir, overflow weir, and an outflow culvert. Most of the inflow to the SWDB would come from Keegans Bayou (D118-00-00) overflow during peak storm hours. Keegans Bayou (D118-00-00) is a verified jurisdictional water of the U.S; Alternative One includes work conducted within the channel that would require an Individual Permit issued by the USACE. This construction of this alternative would provide approximately 409 acre-feet of total volume and would result in jurisdictional stream impacts and would require compensatory mitigation. An Individual Permit could take over a year to review and issue, which would delay the delivery schedule for the project and deadline for construction. Additionally, this alternative would necessitate acquisition of the property south of Keegans Bayou. While this property is uninhabited and would not require relocations or displacements, it would increase the project costs and schedule. This alternative was not chosen due to increased environmental impacts, mitigation costs, and project schedule delay. Under the No Action Alternative, no project would be constructed, and the potential beneficial or adverse environmental impacts identified in this EA would not



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occur. The No Action Alternative fails to meet the purpose and need of mitigating flood risk by providing additional system capacity. Under the No Action Alternative, area residents and businesses would continue to be affected by area flooding. Extreme storm events in this area would continue to result in lost wages, damage to homes and businesses, mobility disruptions, and potential exposure to health risks associated with standing water.

The Proposed Action was selected as the recommended alternative for this project. The analysis confirms that the Proposed Action offers the most flood risk reduction benefits, the least construction cost and has the least environmental impact. Voluntary conservation measures will be implemented to avoid impacts to state-listed threatened species. The project will be constructed on land already owned by the Harris County Flood Control District and does not require acquisition, relocation or displacements. To further ensure no impacts to the state-listed Alligator Snapping Turtle (AST), an exclusion fence (approved by TPWD) will be installed along the buffer and will be observed daily during the AST nesting season by a biological monitor.

The GLO has reevaluated alternatives to building in the FFRMS floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to the FFRMS floodplain development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, and Executive Order 11990 are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and 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. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains and 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 and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the GLO at the following address on or before October 22, 2025:

Texas General Land Office

Community Development & Revitalization (CDR) Division



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PO Box 12873, Austin TX 78711-2873

(512) 475-5051

ATTN: David Camarena, Director of Environmental Oversight

A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the address above and at: [HTTPS://WWW.HCFCD.ORG/KBDB2](https://www.hcfc.org/kbdb2). Comments may also be submitted via email at ENV.REVIEWS@RECOVERY.TEXAS.GOV.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The GLO on behalf of the Harris County Flood Control District has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Texas General Land Office's Community Development & Revitalization (CDR) Division, located at 1700 Congress Ave., Austin TX 78701-1495, as well as the Harris County Flood Control District, located at 9900 Northwest Freeway, Houston TX 77092, and may be examined or copied weekdays 9A.M to 5 P.M. The ERR will also be made available to the public for review electronically and can be requested at env.reviews@recovery.texas.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Texas General Land Office's Community Development & Revitalization (CDR) Division. All comments received by October 30, 2025 will be considered by the GLO prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The GLO on behalf of the Harris County Flood Control District certifies to HUD that Jey Hayes in his capacity as Deputy Director of Integration consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Harris County Flood Control District to use Program funds.



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OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the GLO's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases:

- (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the GLO;
- (b) the GLO has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58;
- (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or
- (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality.

Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division at: 451 7th Street SW, Room 7272, Washington, DC 20410 or by email at disasterrecovery@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Jet Hays, Deputy Director of Integration

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