



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

February 26, 2026

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 March 16, 2026, 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 Greens Mid Reach Channel Conveyance Improvement Project (HCFCD Project ID P100-00-00-E014) for the purpose of improving stormwater conveyance and decreasing flood risk within the Greens Bayou watershed.

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 Greens Bayou Mid-Reach Segment 1 Channel Conveyance Improvements project consists of approximately 3.6 miles of channel modifications within existing Harris County Flood Control District (Flood Control District) right-of-way to increase Greens Bayou (P100-00-00) channel conveyance capacity from JFK Boulevard to the Flood Control District Unit P157-00-00 tributary channel. The purpose of the project is to reduce flooding to homes and private and public property caused by frequent storm events. The goal is to improve



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stormwater capacity, decreasing flood likelihood from a 10-year flood event (10 percent annual chance) to a 25-year flood event (four percent annual chance) by increasing channel conveyance.

The overall objective of the project is to decrease the frequency of flooding within the Greens Bayou watershed by increasing the channel conveyance capacity. The proposed improvements will consist of benched channel improvements with 13.78 acres of 3-foot buried riprap and hydroseeded side slopes, varying between 3:1 and 5:1 (horizontal:vertical), a grass-lined shelf that ties into the existing channel at least 1.5 feet above the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) of Greens Bayou (P100-00-00) and associated appurtenances. The proposed project also consists of the repair and replacement of 31 existing storm sewer outfall pipes, many of which are 36-inch diameter; installation of 0.069 acres of riprap below the OHWM for bank stabilization below the outfalls; and repair and replacement of existing backslope swales and 35 backslope swale interceptor structures to prevent erosion of the channel side slopes from sheet flow. These repairs will require clearing, grubbing, excavation, and debris removal. Project construction will also necessitate the removal and replacement of two weir structures and approximately four support piles for the North Belt Utility District water line that are located within the project impact area.

The proposed project is located within the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain. The FFRMS floodplain for the project area was defined using the 0.2-Percent-Annual Chance Floodplain Approach (0.2 PFA) based on the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs) for the project area. The project area is composed of 147.21 acres of land. Approximately 141.80 acres of the project site are in the Regulatory Floodway and approximately 5.40 acres are in the 100-year Floodplain; all project impacts will occur on land that is currently owned by Flood Control District and acquisition is not required.

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 consists of a combination of earthen and concrete-lined side slopes with a grass-lined shelf that ties into the existing channel at least 1.5 feet above the OHWM of Greens Bayou (P100-00-00). Earthen side slopes were proposed where 4:1 (horizontal:vertical) side slopes could be accommodated within the existing Greens Bayou right-of-way, and the concrete-lined slopes would be 2:1 (horizontal:vertical). While this alternative meets the project purpose and need, replacing the existing grass-lined channel into a concrete-lined channel would permanently remove AST nesting habitat and require a lengthy USACE Individual Permit, resulting in project delivery after grant deadlines. For this reason, this alternative was not selected.



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Alternative 2 consists of a combination of earthen side slopes and Green Terramesh®, along with a grass-lined shelf that ties into the existing channel at least 1.5 feet above the OHWM of Greens Bayou (P100-00-00). Earthen side slopes are proposed where side slopes less than 3:1 could be accommodated within the existing right-of-way. Green Terramesh® was proposed in limited areas where 3:1 (or steeper) side slopes were required due to limited right-of-way and as a means of avoiding concrete so AST habitat could be preserved by placing two feet of topsoil and revegetation. While this alternative meets the purpose and need, it requires significant maintenance and vegetation activities and is not cost-effective relative to the recommended alternative. The Green Terramesh® option consists of portions of nearly vertical side slopes where it was determined vegetation would be difficult to establish and not wash away. Because of this, adverse impacts to AST nesting habitat could not be avoided. For this reason, this alternative was not selected.

Under the No Action Alternative, no drainage improvements would be constructed, the floodplain would not be impacted or reduced, and the surrounding communities, businesses, and infrastructure would continue to be affected by storm events. The No Action Alternative fails to meet the purpose and need of the project. Therefore, the No Action alternative does not meet the purpose and need of the project and is not considered the recommended alternative.

The Proposed Action was selected as the recommended alternative for this project, as it provides the maximum flood reduction to the surrounding residents and businesses, while also minimizing impacts to protected state species. BMPs will be used during construction to minimize impacts to the alligator snapping turtle nesting habitat and reduce erosional actions that can create water quality and bank stability concerns.

The proposed action is the Preferred Alternative because it meets the project purpose and need while minimizing environmental impacts. In order to accomplish this, the project must be located within the FFRMS floodplain so that the Greens Bayou watershed can benefit from improved flow within the Greens Bayou (P100-00-00) channel. The project meets HUD's definition of critical action under 24 CFR 55.2(b)(3). Any structure that will be placed in the Regulatory Floodway will be functionally dependent as defined under 24 CFR 55.8(a).

The Harris County Flood Control District commits to implementing voluntary species-specific conservation measures referred to as Environmental Mitigation Measures (EMM). These EMMs will be implemented throughout the project to further the conservation of wildlife, migratory birds and eagles, and state-listed species. Rafinesque's big eared-bat is a state-listed threatened species and only protected by state laws administered by TPWD. Prior to federal listing, the alligator snapping turtle and tricolored bat are not afforded protections under the Endangered Species Act. The EMM includes steps to be followed to comply with the ESA upon listing of federal species.



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The GLO has reevaluated alternatives to building in the FFRMS floodplain and wetlands 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:

Texas General Land Office

Community Development & Revitalization (CDR) Division

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/Activity/Projects/Greens-Bayou/Mid-Reach-Greens-Bayou-Veterans-Memorial-Drive-to-JFK-Boulevard/Greens-Bayou-Mid-Reach-Channel-Conveyance-Improvements>). 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



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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 March 13, 2026 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 Jet Hays 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.

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.



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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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