



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 Designated Floodplain and Wetland

Date of publication: June 17th, 2025

Project Name: DD6 MIT MOD Corley Diversion Project

State/Local Identifier: 24-065-004-E161 / B-18-DP-48-0002

Contact:

The Texas General Land Office

P.O. Box 12873

Austin, TX 78711-2873

512-463-5001

env.reviews@recovery.texas.gov

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 Jefferson County Drainage District #6.**

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about July 3rd, 2025, the GLO, will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on behalf of the Jefferson County Drainage District #6 for the release of Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds appropriated under the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (Pub. L. 115-123), as amended to undertake a project known as **DD6 MIT MOD Corley Diversion Project, #24-065-004-E161 / B-18-DP-48-0002** for the purpose of **providing storm drainage improvements in order to redirect and divert floodwaters from a portion of Beaumont, generally known as the Corley-Cartwright area, into the Neches River and away from the Hillebrandt Bayou and its tributaries.**



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Project Location:

All work will occur in the City of Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas, at the following locations:

- Ave. D from 150 l.f. south of Terrell Ave. to 200 l.f. northwest of Irma St.
- Irma St. from Ave. D to 90 l.f. east of Neches St.
- Jones St. from Irma St. northwest 225 l.f.
- Gary St. from Irma St. north 240 l.f.
- Neches St. from 115 l.f. south of Irma St. to 106 l.f. north of Blanchette St.
- Blanchette St. from 130 l.f. southwest of Neches St. to 115 l.f. northeast of Pearl St.
- ROW From Blanchette St. and Pennsylvania Ave. southeast 315 l.f. to the Neches River.

Alternatives (if funds allow):

- S 5th Street from 75 l.f. north of Blanchette St. to 195 l.f. south of Terrell Ave.
- Prairie Ave. from S 5th St. to 90 l.f. east of Ave. D

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

Contractor shall install 18,300 LF of Concrete Box Culverts within a ROW. Construction activities shall also include:

- Outfall - 1 LS
- Ancillary Drainage Improvements - 1 LS
- Remove/Replace Pavement – 14,470 LF
- Water/Sanitary Sewer Relocation – 1 LS

Segment 1, which includes Avenue D from Terrell Avenue to Irma Street, Irma to Neches Street, Neches to Blanchette Street, and Blanchette to outfall at the Neches River will be 2 - 10x10 concrete box culverts.

Segment 2, which includes Prairie Avenue from South 5th Street to Avenue D will go from a 12x6 concrete box culvert to a 12x8 box to a 12x10 concrete box culvert.

Segment 3, which includes South 5th Street from Terrell Avenue to Blanchette Street will be an 8x6 concrete box culvert from Terrell to Cartwright Street, and a 48" diameter concrete pipe from Cartwright to Corley Avenue.



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Acquisition:

Grantee shall acquire easements as needed to accommodate construction and carry out all acquisition of needed easements and/or rights-of-way in compliance with the Uniform Relocation Assistance and Real Property Acquisition Policies Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 4601 et seq

Project forecast cost \$46,525,000 and will be paid for with \$46,525,000 in HUD CDBG-MIT grant funds administered by the GLO.

Project size: Approximately 24.9 acres.

FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN AN FFRMS FLOODPLAIN OR WETLAND

This is to give notice that the Texas General Land Office (GLO) has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11990 and Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. This activity is funded under the HUD Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) GLO Contract #24-065-004-E161 / HUD #B-18-DP-48-0002. The proposed project is located in the City of Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas and is described in more detail above. The project area is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and wetland. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the freeboard value approach. The contractor shall install 18,300 LF of Concrete Box Culverts within a right-of-way and will include an outfall, 14,470 LF of pavement replacement and ancillary drainage improvements, and water/sanitary sewer relocation for the purpose of providing storm drainage improvements in order to redirect and divert floodwaters from a portion of Beaumont, generally known as the Corley-Cartwright area, into the Neches River and away from the Hillebrandt Bayou and its tributaries. The proposed project will impact approximately 24.9 acres of the FFRMS floodplain and approximately 0.11 acres of palustrine emergent wetland and tidal water body. The natural resources of the floodplain and wetland include water, biological, and societal resources. The proposed project will have minimal impacts to the floodplains and wetlands because appropriate mitigation will be in place.

The Texas 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/wetland: 1) Work outside of the floodplain and wetlands. Because the



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infrastructure to be addressed is located within the FFRMS floodplain and wetland and must be addressed, it is not viable. 2) Obtain a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) or Letter of Map Revision (LOMR). It was determined that neither a LOMA nor a LOMR was likely nor practical for the project area. 3) Other infrastructure considered. After considering other potential projects in the City, it was determined that of the eligible projects, this project was of the highest priority. 4) No Action or Alternative Actions that Serve the Same Purpose. The current storm drainage system is inadequate for the area and must be addressed to prevent public health hazards and loss of property. The following mitigation measures will be used to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

- Preserving Natural Values and Minimizing Impacts: After construction is completed, the disturbed area will need to be immediately re-vegetated with native grasses. Only native plants are to be used in the floodplain and wetland and on the site.
- Deposition and excavation of materials will need to be performed in such a manner that erosion and sedimentation will be controlled.
- Precautions will need to be taken in the handling of fuels or other hazardous materials to prevent discharge or spillage resulting in lower groundwater quality.
- Erosion control measures such as hay bales or silt screen barriers will need to be implemented and maintained during construction as required.
- The project engineer will need to incorporate best management practices into the specifications and plans.
- Any proposed activities within the project area should be designed in a manner to avoid and minimize impacts to WOTUS to the greatest extent practicable. Any proposed dredged material or fill placement within the jurisdictional boundary of the Neches River will require a Section 10 permit from the USACE Galveston District.
- Outfall structures constructed outside of the Sabine Neches Waterway Setback Hazard Zone (SNWW) Setback Hazard Zone may be authorized under a Nationwide Permit.
- The general conditions of Nationwide Permit (NWP) 7 for outfall structures and associated intake structures will be followed
- Should the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) determine that the project is located within the Setback Hazard Zone, a Letter of Permission may be required for authorization of the proposed outfall structure.

The Texas GLO has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain and wetland development.



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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 the floodplain and wetland 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 the floodplain and wetland 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 the floodplain and wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the Texas General Land Office at the following address on or before June 24th, 2025: The Texas General Land Office, P.O. Box 12873, Austin, TX 78711-2873, Phone Number: 512-463-5001, Attention: Jet Hays, Deputy Director of Integration. A full description of the project may be reviewed at the Jefferson County Drainage District #6, 6550 Walden Rd, Beaumont, TX 77707, weekdays from 9 A.M to 4 P.M. It may also be reviewed at the GLO: 1700 Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78701, weekdays from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Comments may also be submitted via email at env.reviews@recovery.texas.gov.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The GLO on behalf of the Jefferson County Drainage District #6 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 the Jefferson County Drainage District #6, 6550 Walden Rd, Beaumont, TX 77707 and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M to 4 P.M. The ERR is also on file at the GLO: 1700 Congress Ave, Austin, TX 78701. The record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays from 9 A.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.



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PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the GLO, Community Development & Revitalization (CDR) Department. Comments may be submitted to David Camarena, PO Box 12873, Austin, TX 78711-2873, **and** env.reviews@recovery.texas.gov. All comments received by July 2nd, 2025 or within fifteen (15) days following this posting (whichever is later) will be considered by the GLO prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The GLO on behalf of the Jefferson County Drainage District #6 certifies to HUD that Jet Hays in his capacity as Deputy Director of Program Integration, CDR, 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 Jefferson County Drainage District #6 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. 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.

Name and Title of Certifying Officer: Jet Hays, Deputy Director of Integration, Texas General Land Office