

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

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PRESS RELEASE

Commissioner Dawn Buckingham Announces More Than \$48.5 Million in Newly Approved Regional Mitigation Program Projects for Deep East Texas

Total funding approved nears \$120 million for Deep East Texas

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE November 20, 2023 Contact: Brittany Eck (512) 936-7800 brittany.eck@glo.texas.gov

Austin — Today Texas Land Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D., announced the Texas General Land Office (GLO) approved \$48,563,000 in new regional mitigation funds for eight federally eligible infrastructure projects to include improving water facilities, streets and roadside drainage systems, along with the construction of public community resource centers and shelters. These new grants are approved in addition to \$71,198,000 previously announced. Through the Regional Mitigation Program, the GLO enabled local prioritization, which will have a tremendous impact across multiple regions.

The Texas General Land Office is proud to help communities grow knowing that the projects we fund will help protect local infrastructure, businesses, and the homes of those who live here, Commissioner Buckingham said. Federal funds can be complicated to administer, but the GLO is helping communities across Texas cut red tape and turn funds promised into projects delivered. These projects were prioritized at the local level by those who live in the communities that will ultimately benefit from the improvements. We are in Deep East Texas because we care about this region and want to help move these projects forward for the benefit of these communities.

Newly approved grant awards:

Grantee	County	Project Description	Grant Amount
Newton County	Newton	Newton County community center and shelter	\$13,627,000

Grantee	County	Project Description	Grant Amount
Onalaska	Polk	Street improvements	\$679,000
Livingston	Polk	Street improvements	\$2,541,000
City of Newton	Newton	Water and sewer improvements	\$2,558,000
Polk County	Polk	Water facilities, street, and drainage systems Improvements	\$15,510,000
Polk County	Polk	Road and water control systems improvements at three plants	\$1,588,000
Tyler County	Tyler	Drainage improvements	\$2,672,000
Tyler County	Tyler	Water and street improvements and Colmesneil area emergency generator	\$9,388,000
		Total New Awards	\$48,563,000

Previously announced approved awards:

Grantee	County	Project Description	Grant Amount
City of Shepherd	San Jacinto	Citywide water system improvements	\$1,964,000
City of Coldspring	San Jacinto	Sewage collection system improvements	\$631,000
City of Corrigan	Polk	Water storage rehabilitation	\$561,000
City of Hemphill	Sabine	Street improvements	\$924,000
City of Ivanhoe	Tyler	Street improvements	\$1,933,000
Sabine County	Sabine	Street improvements	\$5,912,000
City of Woodville	Tyler	Street improvements	\$3,325,000
Jasper County	Jasper	Construct community resource centers, reconstruct roadways, and install elevated water storage tanks	\$13,254,000
Deep East Texas Council of Governments	DETCOG	Broad and interoperable radio communications infrastructure	\$42,694,000

Grantee	County	Project Description	Grant Amount
		Previously Announced Total Grants	\$71,198,000

Texas GLO Regional Mitigation Program Council of Government Method of Distribution (COG MOD):

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) allocated \$1,166,997,000 in Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the Regional Mitigation Program to reduce the risks and impacts of future natural disasters. Each Council of Government (COG) with HUD-designated eligible counties developed a method of distribution (MOD) for allocation of funds to units of local governments. Each COG developed their MOD through extensive public participation.

HUD defines mitigation as activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters. HUD requires that at least 50% of total funds must be used for activities benefiting low- to moderate-income (LMI) persons. For more information, please visit <u>recovery.texas.gov/mitigation</u>.

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