



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

November 25th, 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 December 11th, 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 Lauder Stormwater Detention Basin (SWDB) Compartment 2 (P500-06-00-E007) Project for the purpose of improving stormwater conveyance and decreasing flood risk within the Greens Bayou watershed through construction of a dry-bottom stormwater detention basin with 256.86 acre-feet of detention capacity, a maintenance berm, all-weather access path, connection pipe structures, and concrete-lined pilot channels, at a total cost of \$ 27,490,674.85. The project site is in north central Harris County, Texas, east of the intersection of Aldine Westfield Road and Gault Road, and west of Greens Bayou (P100-00-00).

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 Orders 11988 and 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 east of the intersection of Aldine Westfield Road and Gault Road and west of Greens Bayou (P100-00-00) in north central Harris County, Texas. The project site is within the Federal Flood Risk Management



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Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and wetlands. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2-Percent-Annual Chance Floodplain Approach (0.2 PFA). The project will improve stormwater conveyance and decrease flood risk within the Greens Bayou watershed through construction of a dry-bottom stormwater detention basin with 256.86 acre-feet of detention capacity. The purpose of the project is to decrease the frequency of flooding within the Greens Bayou watershed by increasing the existing detention basin capacity with the addition of a second compartment. The proposed project will result in flood mitigation for storm events up to and including the 10-year event.

Project activities include clearing and grubbing the site, excavating and grading of a dry-bottom stormwater detention basin to a depth up to 18 feet, constructing a maintenance berm, and installing back slope interceptor and connection pipe structures via trenchless and open-cut pipe construction. Approximately 554,171 cubic yards of excavated material will be disposed of off-site. Concrete-lined pilot channels will be constructed across the site to carry stormwater runoff to the outfall. The existing road pavements and abandoned underground utility lines on the site will be removed. A new all-weather access path from Maximilan Street to the basin berm will be constructed. Two ponds and one wetland within the project boundary will be fully removed. The proposed project will result in the removal of 19.30 acres of trees and a potential loss of 2.94 acres of trees along the dripline for the installation of tree protection fencing. Approximately 9.44 acres of trees will be preserved in the northern and western portion of the project site. Tree preservation areas will be fenced. This project does not involve acquisition.

The project site consists of approximately 45.05 acres of land, of which 30.52 acres will be permanently impacted for construction of the basin. The entire site (45.05 acres) is within the FFRMS floodplain. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 48201C0490L (effective June 18, 2007), shows approximately 11.39 acres of the project site are within the Zone AE floodway and approximately 33.66 acres are in Zone AE (100-year floodplain). The proposed action includes 0.07 acres of wetland impacts. The impacted wetlands provide no recreational, educational, scientific, cultural, or historic value. However, wetlands have the potential to provide similar benefits as those provided by the project, including floodwater storage, erosion control, water quality maintenance, and habitat for flora and fauna.

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 and wetlands: Alternative 1) Larger basin to provide a greater detention volume and 2) No Action. Alternative Action 1 maximizes the use of the existing Flood Control District right-of-way and provides a greater detention volume of 314.69 acre-feet; however, the larger basin footprint required to accommodate this detention volume will result in a greater impact on native vegetation, more tree removal, and less tree preservation area. The existing wetland within the project footprint will be fully removed. Additionally, the larger basin footprint does not allow for a sufficient buffer on the west side of the property from contamination runoff from the neighboring property.



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A second connector pipe was proposed on the west side of the basin into the southern basin, but the existing Sunoco gas line crossing this location does not allow for sufficient vertical clearance for the connector pipe. While this alternative meets the project purpose and need, the engineering and design concerns and environmental impacts posed by the implementation of this action would result in higher adverse impacts than the proposed action. For these reasons, this alternative was not selected. Under the No Action alternative, the stormwater basin will not be constructed, flooding will continue within the surrounding areas along Greens Bayou (P100-00-00) and its tributaries, resulting in repetitive damage to property and infrastructure, and public health and safety will continue to be at risk. Additionally, no structures will be removed from the 100-year floodplain. 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 meets the purpose and need of the project while minimizing environmental impacts and therefore is the Preferred Alternative. To meet the purpose and need, the project must be located within the FFRMS floodplain so that the basin can receive stormwater overflows from Greens Bayou during storm events and safely release it back once the storm has passed. The project will be constructed on land already owned by the Harris County Flood Control District and does not require acquisition, relocation, or displacements. The proposed action will require tree and vegetation removal and grading within the footprint of the basin. The proposed action will minimize environmental impacts by reducing the basin footprint to allow for tree preservation on the north and west side of the proposed basin. These areas will also provide a greater buffer from contamination runoff from the neighboring property. The existing wetland within the project site will be fully removed. However, the impacted wetland is less than one acre, and therefore, mitigation is not required. To ensure no impacts to the state-listed alligator snapping turtle, an exclusion fence (approved by TPWD) will be installed approximately 100 feet from the water's edge of Green Bayou prior to any construction activity and will be observed daily by a biological monitor.

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 and wetlands 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



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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 December 2nd, 2025:

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/Lauder-Stormwater-Detention-Basin>). 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 December 10th, 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.



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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.

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
Texas General Land Office