



# Texas General Land Office

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

*Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.*

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT,  
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS, AND  
FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-  
YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND WETLANDS**

April 17, 2026

Texas General Land Office  
PO Box 12873,  
Austin, TX 78711-2873  
512-475-5000

These notices shall satisfy three separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by DeWitt County Drainage District No. 1 (DCDD1)

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about May 5, 2026, the Texas General Land Office (GLO) will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) on behalf of DCDD1 for the release of Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funds appropriated under Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements, 2018, (Pub. L. 115-123), as amended, to undertake a project known as DeWitt County Drainage District 1- Cuero to Guadalupe Drainage Project. The proposed activities will provide assistance to residents still affected by the impacts of past flood events in DeWitt County, TX.

The project will mitigate erosion in the Main Channel outside of Cuero, Texas. The total estimated funding for the Project is \$1,561,851.52, which will be funded through the HUD's CDBG-MIT program under HUD Grant Number B-18-DP-48-0002, GLO Contract Number 22-119-011-D506. The project will benefit 4,390 people, of which 60.36% (2,650 people) are low to moderate income. The project is not considered a critical action. The purpose of the project is to allow additional flow capacity and mitigate erosion in the Main Channel to increase resilience to disasters and lessen the impact of future disasters

The project will involve regrading and excavating the channel and banks; filling in low spots on the side slopes (embankment); erosion control and stabilization; and installing fencing at the top of the banks. An erosion control log will be used to keep all project activities outside of the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM). The parts of the channel



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outside the OHWM will be cleared prior to regrading by removing trees and vegetation within the channel flow area to increase flow capacity. The average width of the channel is approximately 150 feet, and the maximum depth of excavation throughout the channel is approximately 10 feet. Excavation will be performed with a combination of rubber-tired and tracked equipment. Regraded channels will be revegetated, and erosion control matting will be installed where velocities exceed six feet per second. New fencing will be installed on the east and west side of the channel, approximately 20 to 30 feet outside of the top of bank, for drainage district maintenance access. The maximum depth of ground disturbance for the new fencing is five feet. Land acquisition will be required for re-grading and constructing the fence. The County will coordinate with the landowners to obtain an easement, if needed.

Access to the site will be provided through County Road 439 which leads to the wastewater treatment plant. There is a section at the south end of the wastewater treatment plant that has access to the creek, which will be used as an access point/staging area. All project activities, including construction staging areas, will be within existing rights-of-way (ROW) of the channel, county-attained easements and the boundaries of the wastewater treatment plant. All work will be open channel construction and will involve excavating material in some areas of the channel and placing material in eroded areas. Removed spoil may be deposited onto adjacent properties with homeowner approval or disposed of at an offsite spoil repository site.

## **FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC REVIEW OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN AND WETLANDS**

This is to give notice that the Texas General Land Office (GLO), on behalf of DeWitt County Drainage District No. 1, under 24 CFR Part 58, has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Orders 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 Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) 22-119-011-D506. The proposed project location is along 2,845 linear feet of Gohlke Creek, also referred to as the Main Channel, in Cuero, DeWitt County, and is located in the floodplain and wetland. The project will involve regrading and excavating the channel and banks; filling in low spots on the side slopes (embankment); erosion control and stabilization; and installing fencing at the top of the banks. An erosion control log will be used to keep all project activities outside of the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM). The goal of the project is to improve flow in the drainage channel to increase resilience to disasters and lessen the impact of future



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disasters. A review of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM), Community Panel 48123C0410C, effective on January 6, 2011, shows that the entire project, 14.33 acres, is within the 100-year floodplain (Zone A). The project is also within 1.83 acres of riverine wetlands and crosses 3,047.44 feet of National Hydrography Dataset (NHD) streams. An aquatic delineation performed by SWCA Environmental Consultants in October 2025 identified a 1.54-acre perennial waterway in the project area that would likely be considered WOTUS under Section 404 of the CWA and regulated by the USACE Galveston District. Natural floodplains provide flood risk reduction benefits by slowing runoff and storing floodwater. Floodplains frequently contain wetlands and other important ecological areas, which directly affect the quality of the local environment. Some of the benefits of floodplains to a functioning natural system include fish and wildlife habitat protection, natural flood and erosion control, surface water quality maintenance, and groundwater recharge, in addition to other natural benefits. Wetlands provide numerous beneficial functions for humans, flora, and fauna. Some of these functions include protecting and improving water quality, providing fish and wildlife habitats, storing floodwater, and maintaining surface water flow during dry periods. Project activities will strengthen the channel and improve beneficial functions such as natural flood and erosion control.

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) Alternative Location and 2) No Action Alternative. Alternative upstream locations were evaluated; however, the downstream segment exhibits the most severe erosion and is therefore the highest priority. Mitigating erosion in this area will reduce sediment entering the Guadalupe River, protect water quality, and reinforce the banks adjacent to the wastewater treatment plant, thereby lessening the risk of flooding and system failure.

The No Action Alternative would not allow for drainage improvements in the Main Channel, which would increase the risk of erosion impacting the adjacent wastewater treatment plant and increase residents' susceptibility to flooding during disasters. The proposed action is the Preferred Alternative selected by DeWitt County Drainage District No. 1 because it addresses the most urgent erosion in the Main Channel. The proposed project improvements will allow additional flow capacity and mitigate erosion in the Main Channel, which meets the project goal of increasing resilience to disasters to lessen their impacts. All project activities will occur outside the OHWM, and mussel best management practices will be implemented to avoid impacts to the endangered species assumed to be present in the channel, the False Spike, and the Guadalupe Orb. Erosion or runoff during construction



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has the potential to transport sediment and construction waste materials into adjacent surface waters or wetlands. The project will minimize these impacts by requiring contractors to use appropriate best management practices (including proper site management, soil stabilization, and erosion controls) during all erosion mitigation activities. All project activities, including construction staging areas, will be limited to existing rights-of-way (ROW) of the channel, county-attained easements, and the boundaries of the wastewater treatment plant and stay outside the boundaries of the OHWM through the installation of an erosion control log. Regraded channels will be revegetated, and erosion control matting will be installed where velocities exceed six feet per second, where applicable, outside of the OHWM. New fencing will be installed on the east and west side of the channel to prevent fill material from falling in. Construction activities must be performed in accordance with applicable federal, state, and local environmental permitting requirements, including, if applicable, the implementation of the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) 2023 Construction General Permit (CGP) TXR150000, as amended. If applicable, the CGP will include the development of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan requiring implementation of BMPs to minimize soil erosion and reduce sediment transport to off-site surface waters and wetland areas. The project will comply with all state and local floodplain and wetland protection procedures.

GLO has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and wetlands and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to development in the floodplain and wetlands. 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 with an interest in protecting 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.



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## **FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

The GLO on behalf of DCDD1 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 Texas General Land Office, 1700 Congress Ave., Austin TX 78701. The record is available for review and may be examined or copied weekdays 9 A.M to 5 P.M.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the GLO Community Development and Revitalization Program. Comments may be submitted to Mr. David Camarena at GLO via P.O Box 12873, Austin, Texas 78711-2873 or by email to [env.reviews@recovery.texas.gov](mailto:env.reviews@recovery.texas.gov). All comments received by May 4, 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 DCDD1 certifies to HUD that Jet Hays in his capacity as Deputy Director of Integration, Community Development and Revitalization 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 DCDD1 to use Program funds for the project.

## **OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund 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



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required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to HUD Disaster Recovery and Special Issues Division, 451 7th Street SW, Room 7272, Washington, DC 20410 or email [DisasterRecovery@hud.gov](mailto:DisasterRecovery@hud.gov). Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Jet Hays, Deputy Director of Integration, Community Development and Revitalization,  
Texas General Land Office