



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

May 14, 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 June 1, 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 proposed Genoa Red Bluff Stormwater Detention Basin (SWDB), Phase 2A (B509-04-00-E002) Project. The project site consists of approximately 236.05 acres of land, of which 226.95 acres will be permanently impacted for construction of the basins. The proposed project involves construction of a stormwater detention basin comprised of two interconnected basins—Detention Basin AB and Detention Basin D—along the mainstem of Spring Gully (B109-00-00) on Flood Control District-owned property in southeast Harris County, Texas. Detention Basin AB will be constructed on approximately 166.45 acres of land located on the west side of Spring Gully (B109-00-00).



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FUNDING INFORMATION

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
B-17-DM-48-0001	CDBG-DR	\$100,000
B-18-DP-48-0001	CDBG-DR	\$49,802,298.41

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount:

\$49,902,298.41

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]:

\$51,773,839.17

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 proposed project involves construction of a stormwater detention basin comprised of two interconnected basins—Detention Basin AB and Detention Basin D—along the mainstem of Spring Gully (B109-00-00) on Flood Control District-owned property in southeast Harris County, Texas. Detention Basin AB will be constructed on approximately 166.45 acres of land located on the west side of Spring Gully (B109-00-00). Detention Basin D is located on approximately 60.50 acres and will be hydraulically connected to Detention Basin AB through two existing reinforced concrete box culverts under Genoa Red Bluff Road.



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Detention Basin AB expands an existing smaller basin and is designed as a dry-bottom basin with earthen 4:1 side slopes and a depth of 16.7 feet. The proposed basin will also contain an inflow weir and outfall pipes. The inflow weir will be constructed in the eastern portion of the project site to allow flood waters to enter the basin from Spring Gully (B109-00-00). Water will drain out of the detention basin within 48 hours of a storm event, once water levels recede in Spring Gully (B109-00-00), through the proposed 48-inch outfall reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) and a proposed 24-inch outfall pipe into Spring Gully (B109-00-00) along the eastern portion of the project site. Detention Basin D is also designed as a dry-bottom basin with earthen 4:1 side slopes and will have a maximum depth of approximately 10 feet. The detention basins will have a combined stormwater storage capacity of approximately 1,097.1 acre-feet, with 842.82 acre-feet in Detention Basin AB and 254.28 acre-feet in Detention Basin D.

The project site consists of approximately 236.05 acres of land, of which 226.95 acres will be permanently impacted for construction of the basins. There are six existing wetlands, totaling approximately 63.87 acres, within the project boundary that will be excavated and removed. The proposed project will require clearing approximately 170 acres of mixed vegetation. Approximately 6 acres of disconnected forested areas along the road right of way between the basins will be protected and designated as tree preservation areas.

Project plans anticipate the off-site disposal of approximately 2,129,288 cubic yards of excavated soil. Some of the excavated soil will be reused to construct a 15-foot-wide all-weather permanent gravel maintenance access path around the outer perimeter of the detention basins.

The project scope includes excavation of the detention basins, construction of permanent access roads, inflow weirs, outfall structures, concrete box culvert extensions, backslope swales, interceptor structures, concrete pilot channels, headwalls with handrail, wingwalls, removal and replacement of existing perimeter fences and placement of riprap along with clearing, grubbing, excavation, debris removal and associated appurtenances.

Stormwater quality features will include the installation of a floatable collection structure at the upstream portion of outfall RCPs to prevent debris outfall into Flood Control District channels and installation of riprap around outfalls to reduce sediment inflows into Flood Control District channels. This project does not involve property acquisition since Flood Control District currently owns the property, and no displacement of residents or businesses will occur.



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Based on the effective FEMA FIRM Panel 48201C0940M (effective 1/6/2017), 135.38 acres are in the 500-year floodplain (Zone X), and 100.73 acres are outside of any flood zone. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 500-year flood approach, totaling 135.38 acres in the FFRMS floodplain.

The proposed action includes 63.87 acres of wetland impacts. The impacted wetlands provide no recreational, educational, scientific, cultural, or historic value. However, they do have the potential to provide similar benefits as those provided by the project, to include floodwater storage, erosion control, water quality maintenance and habitat for flora and fauna. The proposed HUD action is solely for the purpose of financial assistance for restoring and preserving the natural and beneficial functions and values of the floodplains onsite with impacts to wetlands that are no more than de minimis. De minimis impacts are defined by no net loss of the function and value provided by the wetland, upon project completion. It is anticipated that the function and value of impacted onsite wetlands will be restored by the project, with or without compensatory mitigation.

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 Action 1: Expanded Basin System Including Basin C (Habitat Impact Alternative)

This alternative included construction of three dry-bottom detention basins: Detention Basins AB, D, and C. Basin C would have been located south of Detention Basin AB within the B509-04-00 area and constructed to provide additional regional detention storage beyond Phase 2.

Early design concepts for this alternative also included installation of new culverts beneath Genoa Red Bluff Road to hydraulically connect Basin D and Basin AB, as well as clearing of trees throughout the entire project site. This alternative provides the greatest total detention storage volume and supports long-term watershed-scale flood mitigation. However, this action would result in complete removal of federally protected eastern black rail habitat within the Basin C footprint. Additionally, a Phase II Environmental Site Assessment identified contamination within Basin C that would have required remediation. This alternative would also result in roadway excavation associated with a new culvert installation, resulting in traffic disruption, increased emissions, and secondary environmental impacts. Construction of new culverts beneath Genoa Red Bluff Road



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would likely cause avoidable roadway and traffic-related environmental impacts. To remain consistent with NEPA avoidance and minimization principles, this alternative was dismissed from the current project scope.

Alternative Action 2: The Preferred Alternative/Proposed Action

This alternative includes construction of the Genoa Red Bluff SWDB, consisting of two interconnected dry-bottom detention basins (Detention Basin AB and Detention Basin D), to provide regional flood risk reduction along Spring Gully (B109-00-00) by increasing stormwater detention capacity and reducing flood elevations for downstream communities.

The design for this alternative includes utilizing the existing concrete culverts beneath Genoa Red Bluff Road to connect Basin AB and Basin D. 63.87 acres of wetlands would be removed due to the project. Removal of wetlands within the basin footprints could not be avoided due to the size, location, and storage requirements of the project, but Basin D (60.50 acres) is proposed without a clay liner, allowing native hydric soils to remain in place and the potential for wetland functions to naturally re-establish over time. The Proposed Action will involve clearing approximately 170 acres of vegetated land, with preservation of approximately 6 acres of discontinuous trees within the road right of way. The area will be seeded with a custom blend of native grasses, wildflowers, and commercial grass with the goal of restoring soil health and encouraging native vegetation growth to replace the invasive species currently growing in the project area, and thereby increasing the aesthetic and habitat values of the impacted wetlands. The 4:1 basin side slope will maximize detention volume of 1,097.1 acre-feet within the layout. The Proposed Action meets the project's goal of flood risk reduction while avoiding impacts to identified wildlife habitat associated with Basin C. It also avoids roadway construction, traffic disruption, and any related secondary impacts to the community caused by these disruptions. The dry-bottom basin design will minimize wildlife attractants in compliance with FAA and DOD guidance. Based on proposed design elements and mitigation measures, the Proposed Action is most consistent with NEPA avoidance and minimization principles and is selected as the Preferred Alternative.

No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]:

Under the No Action Alternative, the proposed detention basins (Basins AB and D) would not be constructed. Existing site conditions, including wetlands, forested areas, and existing drainage patterns along Spring Gully (B109-00-00), would remain unchanged.



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The no-action alternative would avoid direct impacts to wetlands and forested areas. There would be no construction-related disturbance, emissions, traffic impacts, or temporary environmental impacts.

However, this alternative would result in continued flooding and flood risk to downstream communities. There would be no improvement to stormwater detention capacity or flood elevations, and this action would cause an ongoing risk to structures that are currently affected during major storm events. The No Action Alternative does not meet the project purpose and need for regional flood risk reduction and was therefore dismissed from further consideration.

The proposed action is the Preferred Alternative because it meets the project purpose and need while minimizing environmental impacts. As proposed, the project will decrease the frequency of flooding within the Armand Bayou watershed by increasing detention basin capacity while also mitigating potential adverse impacts to wildlife, vegetation, and wetlands. Potentially adverse impacts on wildlife and vegetation were identified in the analysis of the Proposed Action. Actions include 170 acres of tree and vegetation removal and grading within the footprint of the basin. While the tree removal will result in loss of migratory bird and bat habitat, the majority of the trees and vegetation present represent invasive species and no critical habitat was identified. By eliminating Basin C from the project, habitat for a federally-listed species was preserved. Prior to the initiation of work, both nest and roost surveys will be conducted within the project area. Approximately 63.87 acres of wetlands will be excavated and removed to maximize storage capacity and project benefits. Because over 1 acre of wetlands will be impacted by construction of the basins, mitigation is required and has been implemented within the design of the detention basins by ensuring the completed project continues to provide the function and values of the permanently removed wetlands. The existing onsite wetlands are very poor quality. The completed project will provide enhanced function for flood control, sediment and floatables filtration, and water storage. The two basins, with a native seed revegetation plan, will self-mitigate the loss of these wetlands, as described in the EA Design plans call for both basins to be constructed as dry-bottom basins with earthen slopes, which will re-establish wetland function naturally over time. Due to the jurisdictional waters east of the proposed project (Spring Gully (B109-00-00)), the overall proposed improvements will be authorized through a USACE Nationwide Permit 7 for Outfall Structures and Associated Intake Structures. No significant adverse effects to existing environmental conditions are anticipated. The Flood Control District has committed to reducing risk of state and federally listed threatened and endangered



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species, and to ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act. Mitigation measures have been implemented and will be incorporated during project activities.

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 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.hcfc.org/Activity/Projects/Cypress-Creek/TC-Jester-Stormwater-Detention-Basins>). Comments may also be submitted via email at env.reviews@recovery.texas.gov.



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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 May 29, 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;



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- (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: 2415 Eisenhower Avenue, Alexandria, Virginia 22314 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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