Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Floodplain or Wetland

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

Date: August 18, 2025

This is to give notice that the Texas General Land Office (GLO) under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)-Disaster Recovery (DR) (GLO contract ID 24-033-000-E072) is in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and wetlands. As such, the GLO will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the FFRMS floodplain and wetlands and the potential impacts on the FFRMS floodplain and wetlands from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 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 Protection of Wetlands. The proposed action is in central Harris County and extends just north of Beltway 8 to the south and east to JFK Boulevard (latitude 29.935036; longitude -95.346803).

The proposed Greens Mid-Reach Channel Conveyance Improvement project (HCFCD Project ID P100-00-00-E014) will improve the stormwater conveyance system in Greens Bayou (P100-00-00) by increasing the channel capacity. The proposed improvements will consist of grass-lined side slopes which vary between 3:1 and 5:1 (horizontal: vertical) with a grass-lined shelf that ties into the existing channel at least 1.5 feet above the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM) of Greens Bayou. No channel improvements are proposed below the OHWM of Greens Bayou. The proposed action also consists of adjustment and replacement of 21 existing storm sewer outfalls within the project limits, along with backslope swales and backslope swale interceptor structures to prevent erosion of the channel side slopes from sheet flow. The project would reduce flooding to neighborhoods, private and public property caused by frequent storm events. The goal is to improve stormwater capacity, decreasing flood likelihood from a 10-year flood frequency (10 percent annual chance) to a 25-year flood frequency (four percent annual chance) by increasing channel conveyance.

There are approximately 148 acres of land within the project area; this includes the channel improvements, access areas, and staging areas. Based on the FEMA FIRMs, the entire 148 acres of land is located within the regulatory Floodway. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 500-year flood approach, totaling approximately 148 acres in the FFRMS floodplain. The proposed action includes 80.441 acres of wetland impacts including streams and non-jurisdictional. The impacted wetlands provide no recreational, educational, scientific, cultural, or historic value beyond flood risk reduction.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain 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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the FFRMS floodplain and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about FFRMS 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 FFRMS floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by GLO at the following address on or before September 2, 2025. A minimum 15 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 16th day after the publication:

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/Greens-Bayou-Mid-Reach-Channel-Conveyance-Improvements. Comments may also be submitted via email at env.reviews@recovery.texas.gov.