

## **Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year/500-year Floodplain and/or Wetland**

To: All interested Federal, State, and Local Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the Fort Bend County has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and/or 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the Texas General Land Office – Office of Community Development and Revitalization (GLO) Hurricane Harvey Disaster Recovery Program under GLO Contract #20-065-092-C257. The proposed project(s) is located in Big Creek, a man-altered waterway bisected by Highway 36, in Pleak, Fort Bend County, Texas. The proposed activities include discharging approximately 6,158 cubic yards of fill material into a 5.1-mile segment of Big Creek that is located north of FM Road 2977. The project components within the 5.1-mile segment of Big Creek will consist of laying back the existing side slopes to create slopes with an estimated 3:1 ratio, to widen the bottom channel width of Big Creek to a distance of 30-to-40-foot-wide to create new floodplains, to deepen the stream bed to 19-foot-deep, to install six weir/pool complexes, to install four weirs at the mouths of adjacent tributaries connecting to Big Creek, and to construct wetlands at or near the existing overbank drainpipes. A benthic organism conservation plan for the existing bottom was designed and will be implemented by excavating and moving the streambed, and its benthic community, intact, with a track hoe. This project will have a positive direct impact to surrounding properties by reducing repetitive flood impacts by increasing the creek's functional capacity. Approximately 115-acres of floodplains/wetlands are expected to be impacted by this proposed 116.2-acre project.

Fort Bend County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: (i) this project can improve the flow of stormwaters and prevent future flooding events, (ii) the no action alternative is not beneficial to the community because it will exacerbate localized flooding due to current limitations of the creek, (iii) and the proposed project will attribute to the full project aggregation of preventative flood prevention measures that have taken place in prior phases of this project. This project will comply with all state and local floodplain/wetland protection procedures.

Fort Bend County has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain/wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988 and/or 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/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/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/wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Fort Bend County at the following address on or before August 30, 2022: Fort Bend County, 301 Jackson Street, Suite 602, Richmond, Texas, 77469 and (281)341-4410,

Attention: Carol Borrego, Director of Community Development. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00am – 5:00pm at 301 Jackson Street, Suite 600, Richmond, Texas 77469. Comments may also be submitted via email at [carol.borrego@fortbendcountytx.gov](mailto:carol.borrego@fortbendcountytx.gov).

Date: August 23, 2022