

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that Fort Bend County has determined that the following proposed action under Fort Bend Community Development Block Grant – Entitlement funding and B-21-UC-48-0004 is located in the 100-year floodplain, and Fort Bend County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

Fort Bend County, as the Responsible Entity (RE), is proposing the following project within and managed by the Municipal Utility District No. 19, in which they are proposing the removal and replacement of approximately 4,495 linear feet (LF) of piping and will install 32 H-2 inlets, 18 type-C Manholes, 27 40 x 14 foot (ft) concrete pavement panels, and 730 LF of 36-inch corrugated metal pipe (CMP) using open cut trenching. Additional activities include soil stability enhancements at the outfall located at 29.578572, -95.781647 to mitigate where the land has succumbed to extensive erosion, resulting in a portion of the outfall pipe breaking away due to soil instability. These enhancements will serve to protect against future erosion concerns while soil fill, rip rap, and timber bent will be utilized in the reinforcement at the outfall location. All impacts to the Brazos River will be in alignment with applicable USACE permit(s) as the Brazos River is classified as a Water of the United States (WOTUS). All street rights-of-way are owned and maintained by Riverwood Village, therefore there will be no acquisition or easements required. Extensive vegetation and tree clearing is required. The purpose of the project is to repair an aging and unreliable drainage system in Section One of Riverwood Village. The project is not considered a critical action. The NWI mapper shows 0.0643 acres of wetlands within the project area; however, a wetland delineation report was completed to determine the extent of wetlands and found that none are on the project site, including fringe wetlands on the banks of the Brazos River which is in the Zone AE 100-year floodplain/floodway. According to FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map, Community Panel 48157C0235L effective on 4/2/2014, 1.0702 acres of the project are located within the 100-year floodplain: 0.3121 acres in the Zone AE Floodway and 0.7581 acres in Zone AE. The project activity within the Zone AE Floodway is a drainage outfall, which qualifies as a functionally dependent use because, by nature, they move water into a basin or other body of water. Therefore, the proposed project activities are allowed within the floodway. The floodplain provides drainage for surrounding areas as well as the opportunity for natural wetlands and habitats to thrive. Maintaining the floodplain is an invaluable service to the community. Natural benefits of the floodplain will not be significantly impacted. The proposed project is located on Riverwood Dr, Quebec Blvd, London Dr, Calgary Dr, Quebec Circle, and from the end of Riverwood Dr to the drainage outfall.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains 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 floodplain, 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 floodplains 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, 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 **January 12, 2024**: Fort Bend County, 301 Jackson St., Suite 602, Richmond, Fort Bend County, TX 77469 and 281-341-4410, Attention: Honorable KP George, County Judge. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 am – 4:00 pm at 301 Jackson St. Suite 602, Richmond, Fort Bend County, TX 77469. Comments may also be submitted via email at communitydevelopment@fortbendcountytexas.gov

Date: December 26, 2023