

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

August 23, 2022

Fort Bend County

301 Jackson Street

Richmond, Texas 77469

(281)341-4410

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by Fort Bend County.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about September 13, 2022, Fort Bend County will submit a request to the Texas General Land Office for the release of Texas Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383), as amended, to undertake a project known as the Big Creek Expansion Project for the purpose of 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. Project activities may also include acquisition of easements and right-of-way areas to complete necessary construction. The HUD CDBG-DR grant funding is contracted for \$17,417,192.00 (\$13,060,895.00 for Rehabilitation/Reconstruction of Public Improvements; \$4,262,381.00 for Acquisition; and \$93,916.00 for Housing Incentives to encourage resettlement). The project is proposed to measure about 29,375 LF across Census Tracts 6754, 6755, 6756, and 6757 between FM 2977 and Cottonwood Creek – Spur 10 (29.4719, - 95.80474, Pleak, Fort Bend County, Texas 77469.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Fort Bend County 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 Fort Bend County Community Development Office at 301 Jackson Street, Suite 602, Richmond, Texas 77469 and may be examined or copied weekdays 9:00 A.M to 5:00 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Fort Bend County Community Development Department. All comments received by September 12, 2022, will be considered by Fort Bend County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Fort Bend County certifies to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) that KP George in his capacity as County Judge 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. GLO's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Fort Bend County to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

GLO will accept objections to its release of fund and Fort Bend County'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 Fort Bend County; (b) Fort Bend County 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 GLO; 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 the Texas General Land Office – Community Development and Revitalization at P.O. Box 12873, Austin, Texas 78711-2873. Potential objectors should contact GLO to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Honorable KP George, Fort Bend County Judge