

## Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetland

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

This is to give notice that the City of Humble under Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and 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 Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery and GLO Contract No. 19-076-010-B359. The proposed project(s) is located along approximately 975 linear feet of Blacks Bayou, a Harris County Flood Control Ditch in Humble, Harris County, Texas. The 2016 Floods and Storms overwhelmed the drainage system of the City of Humble. Heavy rainfall caused flooding of homes and streets. Repetitive flooding of Blacks Bayou prohibited storm water from draining effectively, which inundated the drainage and sewer system and threatened public health, safety, and welfare. The City of Humble plans to conduct drainage infrastructure improvements to facilitate proper storm water conveyance and reduce the impact of future flooding. The project would impact up to 3.03 acres of the 100-year floodplain and 0.0087 acres of wetlands.

The City of Humble has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values.

Alternative 1: Rehabilitation and reconstruction of approximately 1,000-linear feet of channel starting on the north side of Cantertrot Drive along with existing retaining wall replacements along the channel. This will alleviate flood conditions that occur during heavy precipitation. While 0.0087 acres of wetlands and 3.03 acres of the 100-year floodplain would be removed, no adverse effects are anticipated on the area environment or the larger watershed function. Impacts to these features are unavoidable under this alternative because they are located within the area of required construction.

Alternative 2: This alternative would require moving the proposed improvement project adjacent south of the current location. This would require the acquisition of right-of-way from existing property owners and result in potential displacement. For this reason, this alternative was eliminated.

Alternative 3: The No Action Alternative would result in continued flooding during significant rainfall events. The smaller, more localized drainage areas prohibited water from effectively draining which inundated the drainage system. This alternative would not meet the purpose and need of the project. After reviewing available data and considering all three alternatives, Alternative 1 is the most practicable. The 0.009 acres of wetlands that will be impacted represent a very small percentage of the over 39,000 acres of wetlands within the Spring Watershed.

The current conditions allow flooding in the project area that has the potential to negatively impact resident's safety and wellbeing, and must be addressed. The following mitigation measures will be implemented to address adverse impacts during the excavation and construction of drainage features to avoid harming wetlands, habitat, or other natural features both within and outside of the project area.

A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) would be implemented during construction to prevent erosion during excavations and maintain the water quality in wetlands within and adjacent to the project area.

During construction, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department established Best Management Practices (BMP) would be implemented where feasible to avoid impacts to the Rafinesque's big eared bat, Louisiana pigtoe, and Sandback pocketbook.

The proposed project will improve drainage during heavy precipitation and alleviate potential flooding that could occur. The proposed project would comply with all state and local floodplain and wetland protection procedures.

The City of Humble has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and 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 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 City of Humble at the following address on or before **September 30, 2021**: City of Humble, 114 W. Higgins, Humble, Texas, 77338 and 281-446-3061, Attention: Jason Stuebe, City Manager. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 AM – 4:00 PM Monday through Friday at the address above. Comments may also be submitted via email at [jstuebe@cityofhumble.net](mailto:jstuebe@cityofhumble.net).

**Date: September 22, 2021**