

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Wetland

To: All interested Agencies: USACE, TCEQ, TWDB, Brazoria River Authority, Citizens of Richmond, Gulf Coast Water Authority, Citizens of Fort Bend County, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that Fort Bend County has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 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 Entitlement Community Development Block Grant under B-19-UC-48-0004.

Two proposed projects in Fort Bend County include the City of Beasley Sanitary Sewer System Rehab, located on the South Side of Loop 540, Beasley, Fort Bend County, Texas. The Beasley Sanitary Sewer System Rehab project replaces the existing clay lines with approximately 2,305 linear feet of 12" PVC sewer main on 4 inches of compacted bank and bedding with compacted bank sand extending to 12" above the pipe along the city alleyways. This phase two of the project line replacement is necessary due to area wide broken lines impacted by infiltrating tree roots and shifting soils. The approximate amount of impact to wetlands may be .002 acres.

The second project is for the replacement of the Fort Bend County MUD 19's failing four (4")-inch force main at Riverwood Dr. Lift Station No. 1 to the discharge manhole at the City of Richmond's gravity sanitary sewer at Preston St. The approximate amount of impact to wetlands may be none as the project will use directional boring for installation.

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:

For these Sewer improvements: 1) Moving the project to an alternate location was considered, however, improvements are necessary where failing sewer lines exist, and a portion of the existing sewer lines are located adjacent to a wetland. 2) Not performing the improvements would not preserve human health and the environment, as the current sewer lines are dated and failing, causing unsafe environmental conditions. 3) Another method of construction was considered however, the lines are in such disrepair that the governing officials decided laying new lines parallel to the older lines ensures faster and more cost effective improvements.

Mitigation will include using best management practices to prevent stormwater runoff and erosion through berming, silt fencing, and ensure the project areas are returned to original contours and conditions. The MUD 19 project will utilize directional boring under the canal to prevent impact to the wetland or waters of the U.S. Fort Bend County will ensure compliance with state and local floodplain/wetland protection procedures.

Fort Bend County has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 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 wetland 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 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 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 December 30, 2019: Fort Bend County, 301 Jackson St, Richmond, TX 77469 and 281-341-4410, Attention: Marilyn Kindell, Director. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 to 5:00 at 301 Jackson St. and <https://www.fortbendcountytexas.gov/government/departments-a-d/community-development/notices>. Comments may also be submitted via email at communitydevelopment@fortbendcountytexas.gov.

Date: December 22, 2019