

## **Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a FFRMS floodplain and a wetland**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals on 3/7/2025: This is to give notice that Wharton County has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant Program administered by the Texas General Land Office (GLO) and ERR #(24-065-032-E487), is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and a wetland, and Wharton County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and wetland and the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. Wharton County proposes to acquire property, regrade ditches, excavate drainage improvements, relocate utilities, install hot mix asphalt concrete, riprap slope with earthen bottoms, headwalls, install concrete box culverts at roadway crossing, and all associated appurtenances in order to improve the drainage ditch running along FM1164 from TX-60 (29.518142, -96.069481) to the San Bernard River (29.520083, -96.053972). The purpose of the project is to improve drainage facilities in the City of East Bernard. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using 0.2 percent flood approach. According to the FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel No. 48481C0100F effective date 12/21/2017, the proposed project is within approximately 3.5 acres of the FFRMS Floodplain. According to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Wetlands Inventory, the proposed project is also located within approximately .5 acres of designated wetland code PFO1A wetland. The natural and beneficial functions and values of the floodplain and wetland potentially affected by the proposed activity include floodwater storage and conveyance, groundwater recharge, erosion control, surface water quality maintenance, biological productivity, fish and wildlife habitats, harvest for wild & cultivated products, recreational, educational, scientific, historic, and cultural opportunities. Since the project involves the improvements to an existing facility, it will have minimal impact to the natural and beneficial functions and values of the floodplain and wetland. There are three primary purposes for this notice: (1) 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; (2) 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; and (3) 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 on or before 3/24/2025 by Wharton County at 100 S. Fulton Street, Suite 100, Wharton, TX 77488-5001, (979) 532-4612. Attention: Phillip Spenrath, County Judge. A full description of the project may also be reviewed during regular business hours at the same address. Comments may also be submitted via email to [Joyce.ferrell@co.wharton.tx.us](mailto:Joyce.ferrell@co.wharton.tx.us) CC: [ben@grantworks.net](mailto:ben@grantworks.net).