Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed
Activity in a Floodplain and Wetland
San Jacinto Watershed and Tributary Barrier Flood Mitigation Project
Montgomery County, Texas

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

This is to give notice that the Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management (the County) under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under Texas General Land Office's (GLO) Community Development Block Grant - Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) Regional Mitigation Program (HUD Award Number B-18-DP-48-0002; GLO Contract No. 24-065-164-F079) is located in the floodplain and wetlands, and the County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within 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 and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed action, San Jacinto Watershed and Tributary Barrier Flood Mitigation, is located within the San Jacinto Watershed, specifically, along segments of Lake Creek, Stewarts Creek, White Oak Creek, Caney Creek, Peach Creek, and San Jacinto River East Fork in Montgomery County, Texas.

The particular waterways and corresponding locations of the project are as follows:

Lake Creek. Begins 1,800 ft north of Johnson Road (approximate geographic coordinates: 30.450690, -95.780920), and traverses downstream to end at Sendera Ranch Drive (approximate geographic coordinates: 30.25773, -95.56381), covering roughly 24 miles.

Stewarts Creek. Begins at Shadow Lake (approximate geographic coordinates: 30.38009, -95.47057), and traverses downstream to end at its confluence with the San Jacinto River West Fork (approximate geographic coordinates: 30.24883, -95.45309), covering roughly 15 miles.

Caney Creek. Begins at the Montgomery-Walker County line (approximate geographic coordinates: 30.50882, -95.42619), and traverses downstream to end at the Montgomery-Harris County line (approximate geographic coordinates: 30.10600, -95.17330), covering roughly 44 miles.

Peach Creek. Begins at North Walker Road (approximate geographic coordinates: 30.50892, -95.36187), and traverses downstream to end at its confluence with Caney Creek (approximate geographic coordinates: 30.11828, -95.17203), covering roughly 40 miles.

White Oak Creek. Begins at Gene Campbell Blvd. (approximate geographic coordinates: 30.16488, -95.30362), and traverses downstream to end at the Montgomery-Harris County line (approximate geographic coordinates: 30.09945, -95.18053), covering roughly 10 miles.

San Jacinto River East Fork. Begins at the Montgomery-Liberty County line (approximate geographic coordinates: 30.18650, -95.10406), and traverses downstream to end at the Montgomery-Harris County line just south of FM 1485 Rd. (approximate geographic coordinates: 30.14484, -95.12461), covering roughly 4.6 miles.

Within each of these segments, the County proposes to remove vegetative and other obstructions from the waterways and restore the creeks to full channel capacity. In addition, where areas of significant erosion are observed, best management practices (BMPs) and non-structural controls will be utilized to stabilize banks and mitigate against scour, sedimentation, and additional degradation of the channels and banks.

Channel obstructions shall be extracted utilizing various types of land- and water-borne equipment deemed appropriate for the depth, width and accessibility of each creek segment, and suitable to accomplish the removal of vegetation and other flood-borne debris. Only dead vegetation will be removed from the channel and banks. Dead vegetation will be cut and the root balls will be left in place to prevent erosion. Creeks will be accessed via locations that offer ideal entry (gentle bank slopes, clear of vegetation) and matting will be used as necessary to prevent disturbance to soil and vegetation. Grading, dredging and discharge of fill material are not proposed. All work will occur within the channels to top of the bank.

As necessary, debris will be temporarily staged at the County's existing debris management sites prior to disposal. All vegetation and other debris removed from the channels will be disposed of in properly permitted landfills.

The proposed project is located almost entirely within the 100-year floodplain (approximately 1,119.4 acres), Floodway AE and Zone AE (floodway fringe), and 500-year floodplain, Shaded X (approximately 2.2 acres), with fewer than 3 acres being outside of the 100-year and 500-year floodplain, in a Zone X. Floodplains and floodways act as reservoirs, absorbing and holding excess runoff during storms to lower flood peaks downstream. Floodways allow large volumes of water to move from upstream to downstream without obstruction. By providing a dedicated path, they reduce flood heights and manage water velocities that could otherwise damage infrastructure. Vegetated floodplains also act as a natural filter, removing sediments, nutrients (like nitrogen and phosphorus), and impurities from runoff before they reach larger water bodies and offer essential breeding and feeding grounds for fish and wildlife, including migratory corridors for species migration and habitats for rare or endangered species. Additionally, floodplains serve as greenways or parks, providing recreational opportunities like fishing, hiking, and boating, which can increase adjacent property values and enhance a community's tax base.

The proposed project is also within, adjacent and/or connected to areas of NWI mapped wetlands (approximately 1,124 acres), classified as Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetland, Freshwater Emergent Wetland, Freshwater Pond, Lake, and Riverine habitats. Although there are many types of floodplains and wetlands, each with a unique set of characteristics, they all provide essential ecological, economic, and social benefits, including water purification, flood control, shoreline stabilization, erosion control, habitat for flora and fauna, and recreation. Freshwater Forested/Shrub Wetlands are often dominated by trees or shrubs and are crucial for wildlife nesting and migratory birds. They act as natural water filters, slowing surface runoff, storing floodwater, and trapping sediment and nutrients, which improves water quality. Freshwater Emergent Wetland marshes are highly productive, supporting a complex food web and serving as vital habitats for fish, crabs, and birds. They are exceptionally efficient at nutrient removal and cycling, preventing excess nutrients from entering larger water bodies. Freshwater Ponds provide essential aquatic habitats, offering spawning areas for fish and resting areas for migratory waterfowl. They also contribute to groundwater recharge/discharge and sustain water levels during dry periods, maintaining local hydrology. Lakes function in sediment retention and water quality protection, storing and filtering water. They are crucial for biodiversity, providing habitat for fish and migratory birds, and offer significant recreational opportunities (fishing, boating, swimming). Riverine systems are critical for nutrient cycling and providing passage for migratory aquatic species, while also maintaining water flow and quality in watersheds.

In total, the project is anticipated to potentially impact approximately 1,122 acres of floodplain and 1,124 acres of wetlands. See Table 1 (below) for a breakdown of acreages by creek/project area.

Table 1. Floodplain / Wetland Acreage by Project Area

Project Area	Wetland Acres	Floodplain Type	Floodplain Acres
Caney Creek	347	0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (500-year)	0.04
		1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (100-year)	1.89
		Regulatory Floodway (100-year)	345.2
East Fork of San Jacinto River	34	1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (100-year)	0.06
		Regulatory Floodway (100-year)	34.37
Lake Creek	251	1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (100-year)	1.69
		Regulatory Floodway (100-year)	248.92
Peach Creek	310	1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (100-year)	82.73
		Regulatory Floodway (100-year)	225.89
Stewarts Creek	93	0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (500-year)	2.08
		1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (100-year)	10.04
		Regulatory Floodway (100-year)	80.06
White Oak Creek	89	0.2% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (500-year)	0.03
		1% Annual Chance Flood Hazard (100-year)	0.84
		Regulatory Floodway (100-year)	87.66

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain or 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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain and wetland, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain/wetland. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comments about the floodplain and wetland 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 a floodplain and/or wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management at the following address on or before May 27, 2026 [a minimum 15 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 16th day after the publication]: Montgomery County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management, 9472 Airport Road, Conroe, TX 77303, Attention: Morgan Lumbley, Disaster Recovery Manager. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00am to 4:00pm at the same address as above and at www.mctx.org/recover/. Comments may also be submitted via email at morgan.lumbley@mctx.org.

Publication Date: May 12, 2026