**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed**

**Activity in a FFRMS Floodplain**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals.

This is to give notice that **Burleson County** has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant - Disaster Recovery Program administered by the Texas General Land Office – U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) and **Burleson Co - 24-065-057-E567-Street-Drainage-reeval, #24-065-057-E567 / B-18-DP-48-0002,** is located in a FFRMS floodplain and **Burleson County** will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Protection of Floodplains.

Project Location:

All work will occur in Burleson County, Texas in the following locations: Mallard Rd. from point northeast of the intersection of Berry Ridge Rd. and Mallard Rd. northeast 1,478.4 lf.

Street and Drainage Improvements: The work to be completed is the construction of the 5-10’x10’ Concrete Box Culvert and raising Mallard Street approximately 2’ to get it above the 100-year water surface from STA 71+35 to 84+75.

FLOODPLAIN

***Exemptions to Part 55:***

*Actions listed in the revised 24 CFR 55.12 that are exempt from the floodplain management requirements of Part 55 include:*

* *Exempt activities and actions that are Categorically Excluded Not Subject to 50.4 or 58.5*
* *Restoration or preservation of floodplains, acquisition of floodplains property provided the site is used for flood control or open space but only if structures are cleared and improvements are specifically limited*
* *Receivership or foreclosure and related actions*
* *Policy-level actions not involving site-based work*
* *Issuance of non-project-based housing vouchers*
* *A minor amendment to a previously approved action*

The project is subject to Part 55 because it meets the criteria for none of the exemptions,

***Critical Actions:***

*Critical action means any activity for which even a slight chance of flooding would be too great because such flooding might result in loss of life, injury to persons, or damage to property. Critical actions include activities that create, maintain, or extend the useful life of those structures or facilities that:*

* *Produce, use, or store highly volatile, flammable, explosive, toxic, or water-reactive materials*
* *Provide essential and irreplaceable records or utility or emergency services that may become lost or inoperative during flood and storm events (e.g., community stormwater management infrastructure, water treatment plants, data storage centers, generating plants, principal utility lines, emergency operations centers including fire and police stations, and roadways providing sole egress from flood-prone areas)*
* *Are likely to contain occupants who may not be sufficiently mobile to avoid loss of life or injury during flood or storm events, e.g., persons who reside in hospitals, nursing homes, convalescent homes, intermediate care facilities, board and care facilities, and retirement service centers; housing for independent living for the elderly is not considered a critical action*

Because a portion of the project meets one (1) of the criteria (*roadways providing sole egress from flood-prone areas),* that portion of the project is considered a critical action:

***How FFRMS was determined:***

*The FFRMS is determined by utilizing a tiered approach:*

* *Climate-Informed Science Approach (CISA) -* ***Preferred Method***
* *0.2-Percent-Annual Chance Floodplain Approach (0.2PFA)*
* *Freeboard Value Approach (FVA)*

*Climate-Informed Science Approach (CISA)*

* *Federal CISA data must be equal to or greater than base flood elevation (BFE) to be used.*

According to the Federal Flood Standard Support Tool (FFSST), there is no CISA data available for the project areas. As such, this approach could not provide a determination as to whether the project was in the FFRMS floodplain. The next tiered approach, 0.2PFA (500-year floodplain method), was therefore considered.

*FEMA 0.2PFA (500-year floodplain)*

* *FEMA maps must show a 500-year floodplain in order to be used*
* *Critical Actions require both the 0.2PFA and the Freeboard Value Approach (FVA) be used to determine which elevation is higher, the 0.2PFA or FVA.*

According to FEMA floodplain map #48051C0325C (Effective Date 1/6/11), the entire project will occur within Zone A (100-year floodplain). Since 100-year floodplains are considered FFRMS floodplains, **the 8-step process is required.**

* Area of Disturbance: 2.28 acres

In order to ensure that all appropriate FEMA floodplain data was considered and the most stringent data source was used for the comparable flood data, all available effective, preliminary and pending FIRMS were reviewed:

* Effective Maps - 29
* Preliminary Maps - 0
* Pending Maps - 0

Upon completion of this review, it was determined that there was no additional data which would change the FFRMS determination.

Because the 500-year floodplain was not shown on the FEMA map, this approach could not provide a determination as to whether the project was in the FFRMS floodplain. The next tiered approach, Freeboard Value Approach (FVA), was therefore considered.

*Freeboard Value Approach (FVA):*

*FVA defines the FFRMS floodplain as the elevation and flood hazard area that results from:*

1. *Adding two (2) feet to the base flood elevation (BFE)* ***for non-critical actions*** *or*
2. *Adding three (3) feet to the BFE* ***for critical actions.***

*This approach is used for noncritical actions if neither CISA data nor FEMA-mapped 0.2-percent-annual-chance floodplain data is available or actionable.* ***For critical actions, the higher of 0.2PFA or FVA must be used.***

Since the FEMA maps did not provide a Base Floodplain Elevation (BFE), the FEMA Floodplain Elevation Mapper was utilized. Upon review, it was determined that the BFE for the two (2) project locations were as follows:

* Mallard Road: 253.65 feet

Since Mallard Road is a Critical Action, the FFRMS floodplain is BFE + 3 feet:

* **253.65 + 3 = 256.65 feet**

**Natural and beneficial values potentially adversely affected by the activity:**

1. Preventing loss of life and property as a result of flooding is the highest priority. Another flood could damage the new infrastructure.
2. In addition to concerns for life and property, the County has considered the natural values of the floodplain. The natural resources of the floodplain include water, biological, and societal resources. The proposed project will have minimal impacts to the floodplain because there will be minimal disturbance to the floodplain.
3. According to a Threatened and Endangered Species Assessment, review of the TPWD County Species List and consultation with the USFWS and TPWD, it was concluded that the construction of the facilities will have no quantifiable impact on plant and animal life. Only native plants are to be used in the floodplain and on the site.
4. Societal resources should also be considered during the design process. The designs are meant to complement the natural features of the area and to offer an aesthetically pleasing structure. The site will not have an effect on agricultural lands.

There are three primary purposes for this notice.  First, 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. Second, 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. Third, 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 by **Burleson County** at the following address on or before **June 24, 2025, Burleson County, 100 West Buck St., Caldwell, TX 77836.** A full description of the project may also be reviewed from **9:00 AM to 5:00 PM.** at the address above**.** Comments may also be submitted via email at **todd@texasenvironmentals.com**.

Free oral interpretation of documents related to the CDBG-MIT Grant are available at Raileen Murray, (979) 567-2333.

**Publication Date:** June 5, 2025