

## **Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals.

This is to give notice that the City of Pasadena 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-DR) Pasadena - Pasadena Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements Golden Acres & Vince Bayou WWTP Locations (Application 1331), is located in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain, and the City of Pasadena 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 the City of Pasadena, Harris County, Texas at the following locations:

### Golden Acres Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Improvements:

- 100 yards South of Spencer Highway and adjacent to the west edge of Trebor Street (29.6642, -95.14252).

### Vince Bayou WWTP Improvements:

- 209 N Main Street (29.71545, -95.2084).

Description of the Proposed Project [24 CFR 50.12 & 58.32; 40 CFR 1508.25]:

### Sanitary Sewer System Improvements - Golden Acres WWTP

This project includes improvements and modifications to address this critical and urgent need at the GA WWTP. The proposed improvements include modifying the existing solids treatment system such that the waste activated sludge (WAS) pumps transfer WAS to a new sludge holding tank which would be subsequently pumped for dewatering at the existing belt filter presses (BFPs). The improvements will consist of the following:

- Rehabilitation of existing thickener, digester(s), pumps, etc. Additionally, the City is considering replacing the thickener mechanism as well.
- Two (2) new sludge holding basins with coarse bubble diffusers and telescoping valves.
- New sludge transfer pumps to transfer sludge from the new sludge holding tanks to the existing BFPs. Additionally, adding two additional pumps to transfer sludge from gravity thickener to sludge holding tanks.
- New blowers dedicated to the sludge holding tanks.
- Associated yard piping, air piping, site work, electrical and controls improvements.

All proposed equipment and critical mechanical/electrical components will be either elevated 1-ft above the Hurricane Harvey flood elevation for the site or otherwise protected from flooding damage via flood protection means.

#### Sanitary Sewer System Improvements - Vince Bayou WWTP

The sludge dewatering process reduces the volume of solids being hauled off-site for disposal. The proposed improvements will include replacing the old and non-functional infrastructure with new equipment and restoring the sludge dewatering treatment capacity at VB WWTP so solids generated in the process can be removed as designed and not impact compliance. Specifically, the proposed improvements will include:

- Demolition and replacement of two (2) filter belt presses.
- Two (2) new sludge pumps replacing existing non-operational pump and providing operational redundancies. Piping and valving modifications will be made to allow two pumps to feed a single belt filter press.
- Replacing the existing piping and valves between the three belt wash pumps and belt filter presses as well as polymer system to injection points.
- Replacing the existing polymer feed system, including a new neat polymer bulk storage tank, mixing assembly, and polymer pump skids. A shelf spare mixer will be included for redundancy.
- Associated electrical and controls improvements

The existing sludge dewatering system lacks redundancy and cannot handle permitted flows due to aging and non-operational equipment. All proposed equipment and critical mechanical/electrical components will be either elevated 1-ft above the Hurricane Harvey flood elevation for the site or otherwise protected from flooding damage via flood protection means.

#### 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.

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##### ***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 the project meets the above criteria, it is considered a critical action.

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***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.*

After discovering that the Federal Flood Standard Support Tool (FFSST) is no longer in service and after consulting Harris County, it was determined that CISA data is available for the project area. 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 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 #48201C0905N (Effective Date 5/12/2019) and #48201C0920M, the project is located in Zone AE (100-year floodplain, a 500-year floodplain, both of which are considered FFRMS floodplains. Because both floodplains are considered FFRMS floodplains and the 500-year floodplain was shown on the maps, it was determined that this method could be used to determine FFRMS status and the 8-step process is required.

Golden Acres WWTP Area of Disturbance: 10.4 acres

Vince Bayou WWTP Area of Disturbance: 10.25 acres

Further review of the FEMA maps indicated that a Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) was issued for the Golden Acres WWTP which stated:

This Letter of Map Revision (LOMR) from FEMA is a reissuance of a previous LOMR (Case No. 14-06-4559P) that became effective on October 16, 2015. The original LOMR revised the Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA), Base Flood Elevations (BFEs), and the Flood Insurance Study (FIS) report for areas along B113-00-00 (Tributary 10.46 to Armand Bayou), and for the City of Pasadena, it also included B100-00-00 (Armand Bayou) and B115-00-00 (Tributary 12.18 to Armand Bayou).

The reissuance is necessary because a new countywide study became effective on January 6, 2017, but the original LOMR data for Case No. 14-06-4559P was not fully incorporated into this new study. Specifically, the SFHA and BFEs were not correctly incorporated on the new Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). Therefore, this LOMR incorporates the SFHA and BFEs along the revised reaches as per the October 16, 2015, LOMR. However, the Summary of Discharge Table 18 and Floodway Data Table 8 for B113-00-00 (and for Pasadena, Flood Profiles B03P and B23P for B100-00-00, B113-00-00 and B115-00-00) in the FIS Report dated January 6, 2017, were incorporated correctly.

This document serves as FEMA's determination that a revision to the flood hazards depicted in the FIS report and/or National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) map is warranted. The effective NFIP map is revised by this document. The LOMR is effective as of January 9, 2017.

Affected communities include the City of Houston (Community No. 480296) and the City of Pasadena, Texas (Community No. 480307). The affected FIRM panels are 48201C0920M and 48201C0940M, both dated January 6, 2017.

FEMA will not physically revise and republish the FIRM and FIS report at this time; the modifications will be incorporated when future changes warrant physical revision and republication. The community is responsible for disseminating this information.

Because the FEMA map is not being republished, no changes to the FFRMS determination are affected by the LOMR.

#### Additional Mapping Considered

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 - 77  
Preliminary Maps - 0  
Pending Maps - 0

Upon completion of this review, it was concluded that no additional information exists which would change the FFRMS determination.

#### **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 City 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 necessary mitigation measures will be incorporated into the project.

3. The project is designed to avoid any measurable negative effects on local flora and fauna, thanks to the inclusion of specific protective measures. A key aspect of this commitment is that all planting within the floodplain and on the project site will exclusively use native species.
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 the **City of Pasadena** at the following address on or before **August 28, 2025, City of Pasadena, 1149 Ellsworth Drive, 5th Floor, Pasadena, TX 77506**. 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**.

**Posting Date: August 8, 2025**

Free oral interpretation of documents related to the DRRP\_PasadenaHarvey\_App1331 Grant are available at Michelle Wilson at (713) 475-7290.