# COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS and FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARD DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN AND WETLANDS

8/8/25

## Lavaca County, 412 N. Texana Street, Hallettsville, TX 77964, (361) 798-2301

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited three separate but related procedural notification requirements to be undertaken by Lavaca County

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

#### **REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about 8/26/25, Lavaca County (County) will submit a request to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for the release of Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding appropriated under the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (Pub. L. 115-123), as amended, to undertake a project known as Street Improvements to improve driving efficiency and safety, reduce response times for emergency vehicles, reduce wear and tear on the residents' vehicles, and provide safer roadways for school bus drivers, under GLO Contract #24-065-129-E987.

# **Locations: Lavaca County, TX**

CR 211 Roadway Improvements, Hallettsville 77964:

Along County Road 211, from CR 211A northeastward 3,450', thence southeastward to Lower County Road 210, 29.53247, -96.85511, 11,009 Linear Feet (LF).

CR 392 Roadway Improvements, Yoakum 77995:

Along County Road 392, from approximately 1,650' south of County Road 393, southwestward to Carl Remert Drive, 29.31449, -97.11999, 9,215 LF.

CR 1 / John Clark Drive Roadway Improvement, Hallettsville 77964:

Along County Road 1 / John Clark Drive, from approximately 800' south of Moore Street southward to John Clark Drive, thence southward approximately 2,002' south of Clark Cemet Drive, 29.41962, -96.93817, 10.475 LF.

CR 461 Street Improvements, Hallettsville 77964:

Along County Road 461, from United States Highway 77 southeastward 10,402', 29.30763, -96.95728, 10,402 LF.

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

For all sites: Subrecipient shall install base; pave road; and complete associated appurtenances.

#### **Funding Information**

DRGR Activity	Grant Award	Other Funds	Total
MIT – Public Facilities and Improvements – Non- Covered Projects – LMI	\$2,180,250.00	\$0	\$2,180,250.00
MIT – Public Facilities and Improvements – Non- Covered Projects – UNM	\$726,750.00	\$0	\$726,750.00
TOTAL	\$2,907,000.00	\$0	\$2,907,000.00

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$2,907,000.00

Other Funds: \$0

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$2,907,000.00

The County has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment; therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR). The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to the County at the address above, or by email to <a href="mailto:nailener@co.lavaca.tx.us.">nailener@co.lavaca.tx.us.</a>

# FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARD (FFRMS) DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN AND WETLANDS

This is to give notice that Lavaca County has, under 24 CFR Part 58, conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, and 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 Community Development Block Grant Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) funding appropriated under the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (Pub. L. 115-123), as amended, GLO Contract #24-065-129-E987. The proposed project Locations and Descriptions are as described in REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the freeboard value approach:

<u>CR 1 / John Clark Drive</u>: FEMA FIRM #48285C0290E, Panel 290 of 575, effective 11/26/2010: in a riverine FFRMS floodplain with acreage estimated at 9-acres.

<u>CR 211</u>: FEMA FIRM #48285C0200E, Panel 200 of 575, effective 11/26/2010: not in a coastal or riverine floodplain.

<u>CR 392</u>: FEMA FIRM #48285C0395E and #48285C0425E, Panels 395 and 425 of 575, effective 11/26/2010: in a riverine FFRMS floodplain with acreage estimated at 0.73-acres.

<u>CR 461</u>: FEMA FIRM #4825C0450E, Panel 450 of 575, effective 11/26/2010: in a riverine FFRMS floodplain with acreage estimated at 1.28-acres.

According to the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory maps, each project site crosses a "riverine wetland" at 1 or 2 points. Work activities at the crossings will regrade swale/ ditches, to improve conveyance of water. Per the engineer, if after completion of surveying, wetlands are identified, work will be approached under Nationwide Permit 14, *Linear Transportation Projects*. Estimated total acreage is less than 0.10-acres per crossing and a pre-construction notification would not be required. All limits and conditions of the permit would be followed.

There will be no adverse effects on the natural values of the floodplain or wetland because best management practices will be followed during construction, and the road project activities will not change the topography. At the low water crossings, the existing swale/ditch next to the roadway will be regraded to improve the conveyance of water. HUD's 8-Step decision-making process of §55.20 to comply with 24 CFR Part 55 was completed.

The County has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain and wetland: Alternate Location: CR 14 was first proposed for street improvements; however, the LMI requirement was not met. CR 1 was added to the project in its place.

No Action Alternative [24 CFR 58.40(e)]: Taking no action would incur no costs for the improvements and would cause no construction-related environmental impact but would be unable to improve driving efficiency and safety, reduce response times for emergency vehicles, reduce wear and tear on the residents' vehicles, and provide safer roadways for school bus drivers.

The County has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain and wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain and wetland development. Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, and Executive Order 11990 are available for public inspection, review and copying as outlined in the paragraph of FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in a floodplain and 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 floodplains and 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 floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

# **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments/objections on the ERR to the County. Written comments received by 8/25/25 will be considered by the County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments shall be addressed to the County at <a href="mailto:nailener@co.lavaca.tx.us">nailener@co.lavaca.tx.us</a> or by mail to: Lavaca County, 412 N. Texana Street, Hallettsville, TX 77964, (361) 798-2301, Attn: County Judge's Office. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing. Potential objectors should contact the County via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

#### **ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

Lavaca County certifies to the Texas General Land Office that Keith Mudd, in his capacity as County Judge, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. GLO's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows Lavaca County to use Program funds.

#### **OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

GLO will accept objections to its release of funds and the County's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of Lavaca County; (b) Lavaca County has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by GLO (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Heather Lagrone, Texas General Land Office, Community Development and Revitalization, P.O. Box 12873, Austin, TX 78711-2873, or env.reviews@recovery.texas.gov. Potential objectors should contact the GLO at (512) 475-5000 to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Keith Mudd, County Judge