

**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
WETLAND**

November 21, 2024

San Patricio County, 1301 East Sinton Street, Suite C, Sinton, TX 78387, (361) 364-9300

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

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about December 6, 2024 San Patricio County (County) will submit a request to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for the release of Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funding (CDBG-MIT) appropriated under the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (Pub. L. 115-123), as amended, to undertake a project known as Flood & Drainage Improvements to mitigate flooding by improving the conveyance of stormwater, under GLO Contract #24-085-011-D239.

Project Description: Subrecipient shall deepen and widen existing outfall channels and ditches, reconstruct bridges and trestle, harden ditch stretches that are subject to erosion, and complete associated appurtenances.

Project Locations: City of Sinton 78387 and City of Taft 78390, San Patricio County, TX

Flood and Drainage Facilities	Location Approximate Lat/Long	Proposed HUD Performance Measures
Taft NW Drainage Channel	From the intersection of the existing drainage channel and FM 1944, approximately 160 feet west of Davis Road, thence generally northward along the existing drainage ditch to the intersection of the existing railroad trestle ROW and existing drainage channel, the existing natural outfall, approximately 1,965 feet northwest of Compress Road and Hwy 181 27.983689, -97.408489 north end	6,500 LF
Sinton South Drainage Channel	From the intersection of Private Road 84E and Antonia Avenue eastward along the existing drainage channel for approximately 5,800 feet thence southeastward approximately 1,000 feet, thence generally northeastward following the existing drainage ditch to the SH 188 bridge crossing, 1,400 feet west of CR 63A 28.020770, -97.469597	18,500 LF
Sinton Railroad Trestle	At existing railroad trestle at the intersection of the railroad tracks and the existing drainage channel, 4,240 feet east of CR 61A, 6,500 feet south of TX-188 28.018691 -97.475371	One (1) Public Facility

Funding Information

Grant Number	HUD Program	Funding Amount
#22-085-011-D239	GLO CDBG MIT Rehabilitation / Reconstruction of Public Improvements	\$15,435,182.60
	San Patricio County General Fund to be used toward acquisition (Non-HUD Funds)	\$155,911.00

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$15,435,182.60

Total Non-HUD Funds: \$155,911.00 (San Patricio County)

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$15,591,093.60

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

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 mcooper@sanpatriciocountytx.gov.

FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FEDERAL FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT STANDARD DESIGNATED FLOODPLAIN AND WETLAND

This is to give notice that the County has, under 24 CFR Part 58, conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 and 11990, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C, Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The project is partially located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and also a Riverine Wetland. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain and wetland was determined using the Freeboard Value Approach. Approximately 82-acres of project activities are in the FFRMS Floodplain and Wetland in Sinton, and approximately 17-acres in Taft. Work in the wetlands will be approached under the appropriate Nationwide or Individual Permit, which will be identified at the conclusion of delineation efforts. The permit will be obtained prior to construction. All limits and conditions of the permit will be followed. There will be no adverse effects on the floodplain or wetland because the drainage channel improvements will improve the conveyance of stormwater, reducing flooding and topography changes. 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: (A) The original plan was to continue the channel widening all the way to near TX-188. After a hydrologic and hydraulic study, the Taft scope was reduced to end before the railroad trestle as that would produce the best results to mitigate flooding in the nearby community. (B) Taking no action would incur no costs for the project and would cause no construction-related environmental impact but would be unable to address the problem of flooding from the poor conveyance of storm water.

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 and 11990, as amended by Executive Order 13690, 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 San Patricio County. Written comments received by December 5, 2024 will be considered by the County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the County at mcooper@sanpatriciocountytx.gov or by mail to: San Patricio County, 1301 East Sinton Street, Suite C, Sinton, TX 78387, Attn: Mayor's Office. (361) 364-9300. 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

San Patricio County certifies to the Texas General Land Office that David R. Krebs, 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 San Patricio County to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

GLO will accept objections to its release of funds and San Patricio 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 the County; (b) the 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.

David R. Krebs, County Judge