

**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**

5/5/26

**Gonzales County, 414 St. Joseph Street, Suite 200, Gonzales, TX 78629-4071
(830) 672-2327**

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

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about 5/21/26, Gonzales 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 Waterline Improvements to loop the system by installing new water line where there is none to increase the pressure and flow, reduce leaks, maintenance costs and disruption of service, under GLO Contract #24-065-137-E995.

Project Locations: Gonzales County, TX

- TX State Highway 97, from County Road 228 northeastward to County Road 383 (29.58602, -97.36135), 19,400 LF; and
- County Road 283 / County Road 240, from TX State Highway 304 eastward, northeastward, and southward to County Road 240, thence southward to County Road 426 (29.65568, -97.39725), 12,500 LF.

Description of the Proposed Project: Subrecipient shall acquire land; install pipe, valves, and system connections; repair driveways; and complete associated appurtenances.

Funding Information:

Estimated Total HUD Funded Amount: \$2,459,200.00

Other Funds: \$0.00

Estimated Total Project Cost (HUD and non-HUD funds) [24 CFR 58.32(d)]: \$2,459,200.00

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 (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Gonzales County, 414 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, TX 78629-4071, (830) 672-2327, and may be examined or copied on weekdays from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

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

This is to give notice that Gonzales County has, under 24 CFR Part 58, conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 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 activities are 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 #24-065-137-E995. The proposed project Locations and

Description are as described in REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the freeboard value approach:

SH-97: FEMA FIRM 48177C0250, Panel 250 of 725, and 48177C0275C, Panel 275 of 725, both effective 12/3/2010: Approximately 3-acres of activities will be in Zone A of the 100-Year Floodplain. The remainder of the project will occur in Zone X, outside of the floodplain. The project will install waterlines below ground surface; therefore, elevation standards for work in the floodplain do not apply. This project is not a critical action.

CR 283 / CR 240: FEMA FIRM 48177C0125C, Panel 125 of 725, effective 12/3/2010: Approximately 1.3-acres of activities will be located in Zone A of the 100-Year Floodplain on CR 240. The remainder of the project will occur in Zone X, outside of the floodplain. The project will install waterlines below ground surface; therefore, elevation standards for work in the floodplain do not apply. This project is not a critical action.

All FEMA floodplain sources were checked and the strictest was applied.

There will be no adverse effect on floodplains. The beneficial values of the floodplain will not be adversely affected as the waterlines will be installed below ground surface, will not change the topography and best management practices will be followed. All appropriate and most recent data was considered for this review.

According to the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory maps, there are riverine wetland crossings at both project sites. Professional wetland investigations were completed by Hydrex Environmental. Project activities will be covered under Non-Reporting Nationwide Permit 58, *Utility Line Activities for Water and Other Substances*, which authorizes associated utility line facilities in waters of the United States, provided the activity does not result in the loss of greater than 1/2-acre of waters of the United States for each single and complete project. The project activities will not impact over 1/2 acre at each crossing. All conditions and limits of the permit will be followed.

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: 1) Instead of replacing the 4-inch line with a new 6-inch line, the county could have opted to rehabilitate the existing pipe. Rehabilitation of the existing pipe would not increase capacity or pressure, and the line's condition may not support trenchless methods. 2) TxDOT is doing construction on SH-97 in the same place as the waterline project. TxDOT advised that they prefer the new waterlines to be located outside of their newly designated ROW; therefore, the new waterlines will be 7-10' beyond the new TxDOT ROW except where the road passes the Saturn Cemetery. At that location, the waterlines will be laid within TxDOT ROW so as to not encroach the cemetery.

No Action Alternative: Taking no action would incur no costs for the improvements and would cause no construction-related environmental impact but would be unable to increase the pressure and flow of the water system by replacing aging lines that are prone to breaks, leaks and increased maintenance costs that cause periods of disruption in service.

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 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 Gonzales County. All comments received by 5/20/26 will be considered by the County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments must be addressed to the County at cjadmin@co.gonzales.tx.us or by mail to: Gonzales County, 414 St. Joseph Street, Gonzales, TX 78629-4071, (830) 672-2327, Attn: County Judge Davis' Office. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Gonzales County certifies to the Texas General Land Office that Patrick C. David, 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 Gonzales 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 Gonzales County; (b) Gonzales 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.

Patrick C. Davis, County Judge