

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that the **City of Richwood** has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management. The activity is funded under the HUD CDBG Disaster Recovery Program under **#24-065-013-E170 / B-18-DP-48-0002, Richwood - Flood and Drainage - 24-065-013-E170.**

Project Location:

All work will occur in the City of Richwood, Brazoria County, Texas at the following locations:

Water Improvements

- Magnolia Ln. from north side of Audubon Woods Dr. (29.06938, -95.41544) south down ROW to point 30' south of Quail Run Dr. (29.06613, -95.41513).
- Quail Run Dr. from Oyster Creek Dr. to ROW aligned with Magnolia Ln. (29.06628, -95.41513)
- Briar Creek St. from Quail Run Dr. to Magnolia Ln.
- 4 Oaks St. from Briar Creek St. east to ROW aligned with Magnolia Ln. (29.06699, -95.41512)

Drainage Improvements

- ROW from point 115' northwest of Audubon (29.06938, -95.41544) south to Quail Run Dr
- Briarcreek St. from Magnolia Ln. to Qual Run Dr.
- Quail Run Dr. from Oyster Creek Dr. east 1,230' (29.06615, -95.41464)
- 4 Oaks St from Briar Creek St. east 622' (29.06705, -95.41465)
- ROW from point on northwest side of Briarcrest St. (29.06833, -95.41546) southeast 116' (29.06827, -95.4151)
- ROW from point north of 4 Oaks St. on the northwest side of Briarcreek St. (29.06742, -95.41646) to southeast side of Briarcrest St. (29.06732, -95.41637).
- ROW from point south of 4 Oaks St on northwest side of Briarcreek St. (29.06718, -95.41669) to southeast side of Briarcreek St. (29.06712, -95.41663).
- ROW from point 14' northeast of Quail Run on northwest side of Briarcreek St. (29.0665, -95.41745) to southeast side of Briarcreek St. (29.06642, -95.41737).
- Briarcreek St. from point 40' northeast of 4 Oaks St. southwest 465' to point 100' northeast of Quail Run Dr. (29.06642, -95.41737)
- 4 Oaks St. from Briarcreek St. east 622' (29.06705, -95.41465)
- Quail Run Dr. from point 260' east of Briarcreek St. (29.06613, -95.41673) east 650' (29.06615, -95.41464)
- ROW from point 260' east of Briarcreek St. on north side of Quail Run Dr. (29.06626, -95.41673) to southside of Quail Run Dr. (29.06613, -95.41673).
- ROW at end of Quail Run Dr. and on north side of Quail Run Dr. (29.06625, -95.41519) to southside of Quail Run Dr. (29.06617, -95.41519)

Street Improvements

- Quail Run Dr. from Oyster Creek Drive east to end (1,045 lf)
- Brian Creek St from 290' south of Audubon Woods Dr. south to Quail Run Drive4 Oaks St. from Briar Creek St. east to end 475'

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

The proposed improvements will improve the existing drainage by conveying it via an underground storm sewer system and outfalling the storm sewer structures to a recently improved drainage ditch. The project will improve the condition of the street by reworking and stabilizing the base material and performing a full street reconstruction. A uniform street section coupled with the addition of an underground storm sewer system will help to convey stormwater away from adjacent homes during future flooding disasters and lessen street inundation during intense rain events. The proposed water main improvements will replace aging water main infrastructure.

FLOODPLAIN

According to FEMA floodplain map #48039C0610K (Effective Date 12/30/20), the project is located in FEMA Zone AE (100-year floodplain). According to FFSST, based on the user-defined location, service life (36 Years), and non-critical designation, the proposed action is in the FFRMS floodplain.

The 2050 estimated sea-level rise amount is 3 ft, corresponding to a FFRMS flood elevation of 15 FT NAVD88. The 2060 estimated sea-level rise amount is 3 ft, corresponding to a FFRMS flood elevation of 15 FT NAVD88. The North American Vertical Datum of 1988 (NAVD88) is the datum used on FEMA Digital Flood Insurance Rate Maps (DFIRMs) for Base Flood Elevations (BFEs). Projects located in the FFRMS floodplain should be designed consistent with the applicable policies and directives of the agency taking or approving the action.

The area of disturbance: 3.84 acres.

WOTUS

According to the Wetlands/Waters of the U.S. Delineation Report completed for this project, the following was concluded:

No wetlands are located within the project area. One potentially jurisdictional intermittent stream (Ditch 1 – tributary to Bastrop Bayou: 1,849 LF, 0.52-acre) and one non-jurisdictional stormwater drainage ditch (Ditch 2: 847 LF, 0.10-acre) are located within the project area. Provided the proposed stormwater outfall from the new storm sewer system will be installed above the OHWM of Ditch 1 (tributary to Bastrop Bayou) and there is no fill material placed below the OHWM of the channel, no Section 404 permit will be required for the project. Should the project design change, impacts to WOTUS should be re-evaluated to determine whether a Section 404 permit is required.

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 floodplains because appropriate mitigation will be in place.

The **City of Richwood** has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

1. Do only work outside the 100-year floodplain. - The infrastructure to be addressed is located within 100-year floodplains and must be addressed. (Not Viable)
2. Obtain a Letter of Map Amendment (LOMA) or Letter of Map Revision (LOMR). - It was determined that neither a LOMA nor a LOMR was likely nor practical for the project area. (Not Viable)
3. Other infrastructure considered. - After considering other potential projects in the City, it was determined that of the eligible projects, this project was of the highest priority. (Not Viable)
4. No Action or Alternative Actions that Serve the Same Purpose. - The infrastructure to be addressed is inadequate for the area and must be addressed to prevent public health hazards. (Not Viable)

Mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

- Preserving Property: Project designs should, to the best extent possible, incorporate measures to reduce the risk of damage to the new infrastructure via a flood.
- Preserving Natural Values and Minimizing Impacts: After construction is completed, the disturbed area will need to be immediately re-vegetated with native grasses. Only native plants are to be used in the floodplain and on the site.
- Deposition and excavation of materials will need to be performed in such a manner that erosion and sedimentation will be controlled.
- Precautions will need to be taken in the handling of fuels or other hazardous materials to prevent discharge or spillage resulting in lower groundwater quality.
- Erosion control measures such as hay bales or silt screen barriers will need to be implemented and maintained during construction as required.
- The project engineer will need to incorporate best management practices into the specifications and plans.

Date of any final or conditional LOMR's or LOMA's from FEMA: None requested.

The **City of Richwood** will ensure applicable state and local floodplain protection procedures are followed. The **City of Richwood** has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Order 11988, are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

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. 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 Richwood** at the following address on or before **July 26, 2024** a minimum 7 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 8th day after the publication: **City of Richwood City Hall 1800 Brazosport Blvd N, Richwood, TX 77531 and 972-265-2082**. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm from the previously mentioned address. Comments may also be submitted via email at todd@texasenvironmentals.com.

Date: July 18, 2024