

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Floodplain and Wetland

To: All Interested Agencies, Groups, Tribes, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Jefferson County has determined that the following proposed action under Community Development Block Grant – Mitigation (CDBG-MIT) General Land Office (GLO) Contract No. 24-065-061-E573 is located within the 100-year floodplain according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map. The proposed action is also within areas denoted as wetlands according to the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) map and on-site analysis. Jefferson County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locations and impacts on these areas from the proposed action. Action alternatives are required by Executive Orders 11988 and 11990, and in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

Jefferson County Drainage District No. 7 (DD7) is proposing to improve drainage in Port Arthur (Jefferson County), Texas through the expansion of the existing Halbouty Detention Pond, and the demolition and reconstruction of the existing Shreveport Pump Station.. The purpose of this project is to alleviate flooding in Port Arthur, Texas and Jefferson County. The project site is located within Jefferson County, Texas, situated 3.2 miles northwest of Port Arthur, Texas. The approximate NAD83 geographical coordinates for the center of the project site are N 29.919703 and W 93.992351.

The proposed expansion of Halbouty Detention Pond consists of two detention ponds, associated bridge and roads, and water control structures. Both ponds will be excavated to a maximum depth of approximately 18 feet, where practicable. The excavated soil will be placed on an adjacent 68-acre property owned by DD7.

The Shreveport Pump Station project will include the demolition of the existing pump station and construction of a new pump station. The proposed reconstruction of the Shreveport Pump Station will occur along the Sabine Pass to Galveston Bay, Texas Coastal Storm Risk Management and Ecosystem Restoration (CSRME) Project being conducted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Galveston District. The reconstruction of Shreveport Pump Station will include a new pump station building with associated equipment and appurtenances, concrete paving, fencing, gates, and installation of the pump station discharge pipes within the levee/floodwall.

The proposed Halbouty Detention Pond expansion and stockpile area (+/-138 acres) and Shreveport Pump Station (+/- 0.235 acres) are both located within the federal flood risk management standard (FFRMS) floodplain. The 0.2-percent-annual-chance floodplain (0.2-PFA) was utilized as the FFRMS floodplain for the project area.

Portions of the detention pond expansion cross through areas designated on the National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) Map as wetlands (PEM). These areas are not typically ground truthed, therefore a delineation of waters of the U.S., including wetlands, was performed. During the delineation, 25.38 acres of wetlands were identified within the project area. Project plans are being engineered to minimize impacts where practicable.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and wetlands 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 floodplains and wetlands, 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 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.

Written comments or requests for additional information will be received by mail or delivery at the following address if submitted within 16 calendar days of this posting: Jefferson County, Jefferson County Courthouse, 1149 Pearl St., Beaumont, Texas 77701 and (409) 835-8466, Attention: Jeff Branick, Jefferson County Judge. Citizens with disabilities, alternative language requests, or those who need technical assistance can contact (409) 835-8466 for further assistance. Comments may also be submitted via email at jeff.branick@jeffersoncountytexas.gov.

DATE POSTED: 04/24/2026