Early Notice & Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) Floodplain & Wetland Austin County

To: All interested Federal State and Local Agencies, USACE, TPWD, EPA, USFS, Groups and Individuals in Austin County and Allen's Creek / Sealy and Wallis Areas

This is to give notice that Austin County has determined that the following proposed action under the U.S. Department of Housing & Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant Mitigation ("CDBG-MIT") program under Contract # DRS22-085-007-D235 , B-18-DP-48-0002 HUD MIT/STATE is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS), 100-Year Floodplain & Wetland.

Austin County will be identifying & evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the FFRMS, 100-Year Floodplain & Wetland & the potential impacts on the FFRMS, 100-Year Floodplain, Floodplain & Wetland from the proposed action, as required by Executive Orders 13690, 11988 & 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management & Protection of Wetlands.

The Austin Co CDBG-MIT project is a project to improve drainage at three Sectors comprised of the following general areas: Sealy (Sector 1 area), Allen's Creek / Sealy (Sector 2 area) and City of Wallis (Sector 3 area) within Precincts 3 and 4. This notice covers Sector 2 at Allen's Creek (See list of latitude/longitude, Table 1).

Austin County Sector 2 Drainage Improvements: Austin County has identified drainage improvement activities that will increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters. County shall perform channel creation, widening, and/or deepening, and complete all associated appurtenances. Drainage improvements and re-grading of existing swales to reduce the impact of future stormwater events. County will obtain easements to facilitate the continued maintenance of the improvements that result from this project. Includes Administration, engineering and environmental activities.

Total area of disturbance for drainage improvements is approximately 228.30 acres. Construction shall take place at the following locations midpoint coordinates per segments. The project areas are located at Allen's Creek between Sealy and Wallis Areas of Austin County, TX. See Table 1.

TABLE 1 SECTOR 2 PROJECT LOCATIONS

SEGMENT	APPROX LENGTH	WIDTH	APPROX SF	APPROX ACRES	LAT/LONG MID POINT
AC-1.11	4,259.31	200	851,862	19.56	29.7399083, -96.1364761
AC-2.1	8,678.00	200	1,735,600	39.84	29.7613813, -96.1110582
AC-2.2	9,749.00	200	1,949,800	44.76	29.7422982, -96.1230653
AC-3.1	6,726.32	200	1,345,264	30.88	29.7286651, -96.1321713
AC-3.2	1,728.73	200	345,746	7.94	29.7176001, -96.1314910
AC-3.3	2,781.05	200	556,210	12.77	29.7126065, -96.1306294
AC-3.4	3,708.64	200	741,728	17.00	29.7052125, -96.1299391
AC-3.5	2,368.00	200	473,600	10.87	29.6974688, -96.1273303
AC-3.6	9,740.00	200	1,948,000	44.72	29.6872830, -96.1208975
TOTALS	**49,739.10**		**9,947,810**	**228.3**	

Austin County has identified drainage improvement activities that will address the following needs:

To increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters. A portion of the proposed improvements may be located within the FFRMS, 100-Year Floodplain & Wetlands.

Floodplain

The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using a freeboard value approach. This approach included utilizing available current floodplain maps, historical topo maps as well as elevation models where available. Research used base flood elevations and the 2% annual chance flood hazard as available. According to the Floodplain FEMA map panels approximately 228 acres are located within the 1% annual chance flood hazard area. The project is located within the FFRMS flood risk area. See Table 2 below.

TABLE 2 AUSTIN COUNTY SECTOR 2 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS – FFRMS 1% FLOODPLAIN IMPACT

SEGMENT	*MAP PANEL*	*ZONE*	*APPROX LENGTH*	*WIDTH*	*APPROX SQUARE FEET*	*APPROX ACRES*	*LAT/LONG MIDPOINT*
AC-1.11	48015C0400F, EFF 10/18/2019	AE	4,259	200	851,862	19.56	29.7399083, -96.1364761
AC-2.1	48015C0350F, EFF 10/18/2019	AE,X	8,678	200	1,735,600	39.84	29.7613813, -96.1110582
AC-2.2	48015C0425, EFF 10/18/2019 48015C0400F, EFF 10/18/2019	AE	9,749	200	1,949,800	44.76	29.7422982, -96.1230653
AC-3.1	48015C0400F, EFF 10/18/2019	AE	6,726	200	1,345,264	30.88	29.7286651, -96.1321713
AC-3.2	48015C0400F, EFF 10/18/2019	AE	1,729	200	345,746	7.94	29.7176001, -96.1314910
AC-3.3	48015C0400F, EFF 10/18/2019	AE	2,781	200	556,210	12.77	29.7126065, -96.1306294
AC-3.4	48015C0400F, EFF 10/18/2019	AE	3,709	200	741,728	17.00	29.7052125, -96.1299391
AC-3.5	48015C0400F, EFF 10/18/2019	AE,A	2,368	200	473,600	10.87	29.6974688, -96.1273303
AC-3.6	48015C0400F, EFF 10/18/2019 48015C042SF, EFF 10/18/2019	AE,A	9,740	200	1,948,000	44.72	29.6872830, -96.1208975
Total			**49,739**		**9,947,810**	**228.34**	

Wetlands

According to a wetland delineation conducted for the drainage improvement project, wetland avoidance is necessary throughout the project. Total wetland impact is approximately 22.38 acres and includes Emergent, Ephemeral, Forested, Intermittent, Intermittent Perennial, Open Water. See Table 3 below.

ALEN'S CREEK WETLAND STREAMS INVESTIGATED	*TYPE*	*LOCATION*
Unnamed Tributary 1 (UT-1)	Ephemeral	29.739711, -96.138583
Unnamed Tributary 2 (UT-2)	Ephemeral	29.740043, -96.135651
Unnamed Tributary 3 (UT-3)	Intermittent	29.689506, -96.123378
Allens Creek and Main Tributary	Intermittent/ Perennial	29.697801, -96.127045

TABLE 3 AUSTIN COUNTY SECTOR 2 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS Approximate Wetland Impacts/ Total Areas of Disturbance			
Aquatic Resource	**Type**	**Area (ac)**	**LAT/ LONG (NAD83)**
Wetland A	Emergent	0.59	29.768524, -96.104555
Wetland B	Emergent	0.17	29.767208, -96.107276
Wetland G	Emergent	0.06	29.761812, -96.110497
Wetland J	Emergent	0.08	29.760801, -96.111982
Wetland N	Emergent	0.16	29.758584, -96.112752
Wetland O	Emergent	0.52	29.757938, -96.112923
Wetland Y	Emergent	0.11	29.741838, -96.124792
Wetland AB	Emergent	0.37	29.740489, -96.131738
Wetland AC	Emergent	0.02	29.738606, -96.132379
Wetland AV	Emergent	0.15	29.727584, -96.132166
Wetland AW	Emergent	0.31	29.726738, -96.132285
Wetland AY	Emergent	0.02	29.725851, -96.132309
Wetland AZ	Emergent	0.06	29.724393, -96.131519
Wetland BA	Emergent	0.07	29.723469, -96.131499
Wetland BB	Emergent	0.4	29.723325, -96.131272
Wetland BE	Emergent	0.09	29.721210, -96.132081
Wetland BF	Emergent	0.02	29.720847, -96.131826
Wetland BG	Emergent	0.05	29.720664, -96.132202
TOTAL EMERGENT		3.25	
Wetland C	Forested	0.08	29.766034, -96.108212
Wetland D	Forested	0.07	29.764260, -96.108865
Wetland E	Forested	0.14	29.763528, -96.109373
Wetland F	Forested	0.05	29.762057, -96.110148
Wetland H	Forested	0.04	29.761804, -96.110821
Wetland I	Forested	0.02	29.761658, -96.110952
Wetland K	Forested	0.02	29.760571, -96.111993
Wetland L	Forested	0.34	29.760193, -96.112579
Wetland M	Forested	0.57	29.759203, -96.112927
Wetland P	Forested	1.14	29.758202, -96.112623
Wetland Q	Forested	0.04	29.757168, -96.113342
Wetland R	Forested	0.18	29.757029, -96.113152
Wetland S	Forested	2.6	29.755025, -96.111199
Wetland T	Forested	1.99	29.752617, -96.112797
Wetland U	Forested	2.8	29.752991, -96.111857
Wetland V	Forested	2.14	29.750342, -96.115148
Wetland W	Forested	2.21	29.74992, -96.115079
Wetland X	Forested	0.1	29.742244, -96.122402
Wetland Z	Forested	0.02	29.741175, -96.131664
Wetland AA	Forested	0.02	29.741111, -96.131616
Wetland AD	Forested	0.1	29.737766, -96.132462
Wetland AE	Forested	0.05	29.737653, -96.132563
Wetland AF	Forested	0.33	29.736692, -96.132615
Wetland AG	Forested	0.23	29.735708, -96.132434
Wetland AH	Forested	0.34	29.734892, -96.131949
Wetland AI	Forested	0.31	29.734259, -96.131521
Wetland AJ	Forested	0.12	29.732809, -96.131954
Wetland AK	Forested	0.04	29.732707, -96.131829
Wetland AL	Forested	0.09	29.732019, -96.131755
Wetland AM	Forested	0.31	29.731327, -96.132175
Wetland AN	Forested	0.21	29.730769, -96.132104
Wetland AO	Forested	0.18	29.730085, -96.132405

TABLE 3 AUSTIN COUNTY SECTOR 2 DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS Approximate Wetland Impacts/ Total Areas of Disturbance			
Aquatic Resource	**Type**	**Area (ac)**	**LAT/ LONG (NAD83)**
Wetland AP	Forested	0.03	29.730001, -96.132325
Wetland AQ	Forested	0.08	29.729532, -96.132273
Wetland AR	Forested	0.08	29.729078, -96.132358
Wetland AS	Forested	0.4	29.728559, -96.132113
Wetland AT	Forested	0.12	29.728273, -96.132291
Wetland AU	Forested	0.07	29.727907, -96.132192
Wetland AX	Forested	0.03	29.726568, -96.132213
Wetland BC	Forested	0.12	29.723357, -96.131760
Wetland BD	Forested	0.1	29.722274, -96.131835
Wetland BH	Forested	0.14	29.713518, -96.130440
Wetland BI	Forested	0.05	29.709806, -96.130355
Wetland BJ	Forested	0.16	29.706192, -96.130337
Wetland BK	Forested	0.04	29.705842, -96.130351
Wetland BL	Forested	0.11	29.699145, -96.127388
Wetland BM	Forested	0.06	29.689447, -96.122655
Wetland BN	Forested	0.12	29.686089, -96.119973
Wetland BO	Forested	0.07	29.681930, -96.113093
TOTAL FORESTED		18.66	
Open Water 1 (OW-1)	Open Water	0.08	29.732171, -96.131628
Open Water 2 (OW-2)	Open Water	0.09	29.705022, -96.130112
Open Water 3 (OW-3)	Open Water	0.12	29.742688, -96.12653
Open Water 4 (OW-4)	Open Water	0.18	29.700237, -96.128381
TOTAL OPEN WATER		0.47	
TOTAL AQUATIC RESOURCES WITHIN PROJECT AREA		**22.48**	

The type of beneficial values includes primarily rural residential wetland areas important for area flood controls. Intrinsic Values include archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and scenic elements.

Types of mitigation for the possibility of affecting wetlands includes avoidance and improvements above the ordinary high-water mark (OHWM). The use of Nationwide Permit 33 for temporary construction, access and dewatering is possible during construction. Additional mitigation for floodplains will be to implement Best Management Processes (BMP) for construction within the floodplain to prevent significant affect by the activities and to return the area contours to be consistent with improvements needed for better flood controls.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in FFRMS, 100-Year, 500-year 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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the FFRMS, 100-Year, 500-year Floodplain and Wetland, 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 FFRMS, 100-Year, 500-year Floodplain and Wetland 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 FFRMS, 100-Year, 500-year Floodplain and Wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Austin County at the following address on or before **August 8, 2025.** Austin County Courthouse, One East Main, Bellville, TX 77418, (979) 865-5911 Attention: Tim Lapham, County Judge. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm at Austin County Courthouse, One East Main, Bellville, TX 77418, (979) 865-5911. Comments may also be submitted via email at tlapham@austincounty.com

Date: July 24, 2025