

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROGRAM
Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed
Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain or Wetland

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To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals this is to give notice that Responsible Entity under 24 CFR Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order(s) 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, and/or Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under Recreational Connectivity Trail (HUD grant B-24-MC-48-0500). The proposed project(s) is located South Los Ebanos Road adjacent to the City of Mission Hike and Bike Trail South of Expressway 83 and running East to connect with South Conway Avenue in Mission, Hidalgo County and is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and wetland. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2 percent flood approach. The proposed project is located in a 100-year floodplain. Sidewalk installation on the proposed project site is located within a Floodplain Area (Zone A), (Areas with a 1% annual chance of flooding and a 26% chance of flooding over the life of a 30-year mortgage. Because detailed analyses are not performed for such areas; no depths or base flood elevations are shown within these zones, as indicated on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 400 of 525 No.480334 0400C, revised November 16, 1982. Construction components include a 2.32 mile of 10 ft wide concrete trail, concrete approaches, trails & embankments in areas that tunnel under Conway Avenue, Bryan Road, and Shary Road. Funds will be used for the construction of a connecting trail starting on South Los Ebanos Road adjacent to the City of Mission Hike and Bike Trail South of Expressway 83 and running East to connect with South Conway Avenue. This will be a partnership with Hidalgo County Precincts 2 & 3. This project will provide a safe recreational space for constituents living in, near, and around the Qualified Census Tract. The project will further provide recreational activities for therapeutic, mental health, and physical benefits addressing social determinants of health and confronting public health disparities, particularly for this low-income area. The proposed project is within the FFRMS, floodway, existing natural and beneficial functions (e.g. floodwater storage and conveyance, groundwater discharge or recharge, erosion control), and habitat for flora and fauna, and recreational of the floodplain/wetland potentially adversely affected by the activity. This project consists of a total of 2.82 acres of floodplain/wetland potentially impacted.

The City of Mission 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: locations outside and not affecting the FFRMS floodplain or wetlands, alternative methods to serve the identical project objective, and a determination not to approve any action proposing the occupancy or modification of a floodplain or wetland. The practicability of alternatives considered the natural, social, and economic values of each alternative. The alternatives considered were not chosen because the sites would have increased the project scope to include land acquisition and involve a change in land use or other more significant development costs. The proposed site is vacant due to being a utility right-of-way, would have low to no impact to the existing area conditions, and adaptable to mitigation planning. The City of Mission has reevaluated the alternatives and has determined that there is no practicable alternative to relocate the proposed project in the FFRMS floodplain and wetland. The proposed project must be located within the floodplain and wetland due to the necessity of aligning with existing infrastructure and to meet critical service requirements for the surrounding community. Furthermore, the area directly aligns with the overall objective of the project which is to connect to nearby communities and provide safe outdoor recreational amenities. The best action is to proceed with the project as planned utilizing the following mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and values of the FFRMs floodplains:

- The project shall meet any applicable, additional local floodplain requirements set forth by the community's Floodplain Administrator prior to construction.
- All state, local, and NFIP floodplain protection procedures will be followed.
- All state and local wetland protection procedures will be followed.
- If a USACE permit is required, the project will remain in compliance with all the General / Regional Conditions of the applicable permit.
- All necessary permits will be acquired prior to construction.

The project shall comply with all applicable local floodplain requirements set by the community's Floodplain Administrator, as well as state, local, and NFIP floodplain protection procedures. The project shall be implemented using best management practices designed to protect natural landscapes that serve to maintain or restore natural hydrology through infiltration. The City of Mission has reevaluated the alternatives and has determined that there is no practicable alternative to locating the proposed project in the FFRMS floodplain and wetlands.

Environmental files documenting compliance with Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, and/or Executive Order 11990, 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 floodplain/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 floodplain/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 floodplain/wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the City of Mission at the following address on or before May 6, 2025: City of Mission, Community Development Department, 1301 E. 8th Street, Suite 103, Mission, Texas 78572 and (956) 580-8670, Attention: Michael J. Elizalde, Director of Grants and Strategic Development. A full description of the project may also be reviewed during regular business hours at the same address as above and at the city's website www.missiontexas.us. Comments may also be submitted via email at housing@missiontexas.us and cc: grants@missiontexas.us.