

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

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

This is to give notice that Hardin County has determined that the following proposed action under Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Relief and B-17-DM-48-0001 is located in areas denoted as wetlands according to the USFWS National Wetlands Inventory (NWI) maps, and Hardin County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in these areas and the potential impacts on these areas from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands.

The South East Texas Regional Planning Commission has allocated a total of \$8,583,167.11 to Hardin County to fund construction and implementation all projects pertaining to infrastructure under Harvey CDBG-DR. This notice relates to two proposed projects, the Hardin County Saratoga Drainage Project (Project Number GLO17-30238-P), and the Hardin County Saratoga Roads Project (Project Number GLO17-30234-P). For the purpose of improving the efficiency of public correspondence, these projects are being grouped for this notice. The Drainage Project will consist of approximately 26,457 LF of roadside ditch improvements, as well as associated culvert replacements and repairs as necessary. The Roads Project will consist of approximately 30,713 LF of road resurfacing, as well as associated culvert replacements and repairs as necessary.

The entirety of both project areas are located within Zone X (areas outside the 100-year floodplain), as indicated on Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panels 48199C0325F, 48199C0350F, and 48199C0475F, revised October 6, 2010. Portions of the project right-of-way cross through areas designated on the National Wetlands Inventory Map as wetlands (PFO, PEM, and PUB). In order to verify the presence and locations of these potential features, a delineation of waters of the U.S., including wetlands, was performed. During the delineation, two (2) wetlands (0.05 acres) and one (1) stream (120 linear feet) were identified within the road ROW. Project activities will be designed with the intent to avoid impacting wetlands and to minimize impacts where necessary. If project designs indicate the need for any impacts to wetlands or streams, these can be covered through use of Nationwide Permits for the road resurfacing or roadside ditch improvement.

The Hardin County Saratoga Drainage Project is proposed to take place along the following streets in Saratoga, Texas: Murphy Drive, Birch Drive, 1<sup>st</sup> Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Street, Weaver Street, Big Thicket Drive, Flowers Drive, Bishop Loop, Spruce Road, Collins Road, Chessher Road, Crow Road, Sycamore Road, Moore Road, Pecan Grove Road, Eastham Street, Buchanan Drive, and Bronx Road. The Hardin County Saratoga Roads Project will take place along portions of the following streets in and near Saratoga, Texas: Doucette Road, Jackson Loop, Pine Lane, Williams Drive, Rose Drive, Old Sour Lake Road, and Brown Road.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in 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 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 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 wetland it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Hardin County at the following address on or before June 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023: Hardin County, CDBG Acquisition, 300 W Monroe Street, Kountze, TX 77625, Attention: Wayne McDaniel, Judge. The draft Environmental Review Record (ERR) may also be reviewed [www.co.hardin.tx.us](http://www.co.hardin.tx.us). Please note, the draft ERR is a living document, and will continue to be updated as the review is completed. Comments may also be submitted via email at [comments@hydrex-inc.com](mailto:comments@hydrex-inc.com).

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