

**Federal Emergency Management Agency
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for Jefferson County Drainage District No. 6 Ditch 609 South China Relief Project, HMGP-DR-4332-TX Project #166

Interested persons are hereby notified that Jefferson County Drainage District No. 6 (JCDD6) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), through the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. FEMA's HMGP provides grants to states, tribes, and local governments to implement long-term hazard mitigation measures that reduce the loss of life and property due to natural disasters and to enable mitigation measures to be implemented during the immediate recovery from a disaster. This notice also serves as FEMA's final notice under Executive Order 11988 for Floodplain Management and Executive Order 11990 Protection of Wetlands as the proposed action affects floodplain and wetland resources.

FEMA proposes to provide funding to JCDD6 to improve drainage for the Town of China south of US 90, thus significantly reducing repetitive structure damage due to flooding in this area. Under the Proposed Action Alternative, JCDD6 proposes to quadruple the capacity of the existing Ditch 609 by excavating the channel to a 9-ft depth and a 15-ft and 10-ft bottom width, with 4:1 side slopes. The excavated material would be stacked along the sides of the channel, with gaps every 500 feet to allow for adjacent property drainage. A 140-ft wide right of way (ROW) will be surveyed and purchased for the ditch widening and a 90-ft wide ROW east of South China Rd. will be purchased on each side of the ditch for additional dirt spoils placement. Two other ditches will be excavated as tributaries to the main channel—one parallel to and on the east side of South China Road and one along the LNVA Canal. The project also includes improved drainage crossings of canals and laterals. A water line and sewer line will be adjusted to allow for a new crossing at South China Road. Disturbed areas will be re-seeded with a native grass mix.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to assess the potential impacts of the proposed action and alternatives on the human and natural environment in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 – 1508), FEMA's Instruction 108-1-1 for implementing NEPA, the National Historic Preservation Act, Executive Order 11988, Executive Order 11990, and 44 CFR Part 9. The draft EA evaluates alternatives that provide for compliance with applicable environmental laws. The alternatives evaluated include (1) No Action; (2) Detention Action; (3) Buyout Action; and (4) Proposed Action described above.

The draft EA is available for review and comment from October 11 to November 9, 2020, online at FEMA's website <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/region/6>. An electronic or hard copy version of the draft EA can also be requested from Jacquelyn M. Howard, FEMA Region 6, at jacquelyn.howard@fema.dhs.gov.

The comment period will end 30 days from the initial notice publication date. Written comments on the draft EA can be mailed or emailed to Jacquelyn M. Howard, Environmental Protection Specialist, FEMA Region 6, 800 N Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209; Email: jacquelyn.howard@fema.dhs.gov. If no substantive comments are received, the draft EA will become final and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be issued for the project. Substantive comments will be addressed as appropriate in the final documents.