

**Federal Emergency Management Agency  
PUBLIC NOTICE**

Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Assessment for the Fort Bend County Levee Improvement District No. 7 Brazos River Bank Stabilization Project, Fort Bend County, Texas, HMGP-4332-0035-TX

Interested persons are hereby notified that the Fort Bend County Levee Improvement District No. 7 (FBCLID7) has applied to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) funding under Section 404 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act. FEMA's Hazard Mitigation Grant Program provides grants to states 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 floodplain notice under Executive Order 11988 for Floodplain Management as the proposed action is taking place in the 100-year floodplain.

FEMA proposes to provide funding to Fort Bend County Levee Improvement District No. 7 (FBCLID7) for the design and implementation of bank stabilization treatment(s) along the eroding northern bank of the Brazos River in the area of FBCLID7's flood protection levee. FBCLID7 proposes to reconstruct a stable bank at or near the current river bank location. Earthen material along the existing bank would be removed to create a sloped bank that would be protected with stone riprap. Larger stone boulders would be placed along the river bank toe, with the intent being that as minor erosion occurs along the bank toe, the larger stone boulders would fall to fill in eroded areas (launching stone toe protection). The reconstructed bank would facilitate the conveyance of flood flows through the bend in the Brazos River and the SH 99 bridge structure. The improved hydraulics would reduce the scouring and erosion that would lead to accelerated bank loss. The toe of the reconstructed bank would be configured to maintain a consistent geometric curve along the bank. Placing the reconstructed toe at or near the existing bank toe would minimize work and fill within the jurisdictional waters of the Brazos River, thereby minimizing overall environmental impacts. Upslope of the bank toe, materials and techniques appropriate for stabilizing and protecting the river bank from the erosive forces of flood flows would be installed.

A series of bendway weirs, which would extend partially into the channel of the Brazos River and would be stabilized at their bases with rock riprap, are proposed to be constructed as part of the Proposed Action. The bendway weirs would assist in improving the river hydraulics in the project area. The intent of the bendway weirs would be to alter the flow characteristics in the immediate vicinity of the weir structures to capture suspended sediment and allow the sediment to settle in the area of the bendway weirs and the reconstructed bank toe. Over time, the accumulation of sediment would accrete along the northern river bank, shifting the river channel farther south, away from the adjacent flood protection levee. The Proposed Action would optimize stabilization of the northern river bank in the available area between the bank toe and the flood protection levee while minimizing potential environmental impacts to the river.

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) the proposed action described above.

The draft EA is available for review and comment online on FEMA's website at <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/practitioners/environmental-historic/region/6>. An electronic version of the draft EA can also be requested from Subha Pandey, FEMA Region 6, at [subha.pandey@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:subha.pandey@fema.dhs.gov).

The comment period will end 30 days from the initial notice publication date on November X, 2021. Written comments on the draft EA can be mailed or emailed to Subha Pandey, Environmental Protection

Specialist, FEMA Region 6, 800 N Loop 288, Denton, TX 76209, [subha.pandey@fema.dhs.gov](mailto:subha.pandey@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.