

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY

GALVESTON DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS P. O. BOX 1229 GALVESTON, TEXAS 77553-1229

April 16, 2019

Public Notice

BUFFALO BAYOU AND TRIBUTARIES RESILIENCY STUDY

Interested parties are hereby notified that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Galveston District is initiating the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process, pursuant to NEPA of 1969, for the Buffalo Bayou and Tributaries Resiliency Study (BBTRS).

The USACE, in partnership with Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD), has initiated the BBTRS which will investigate the causes of flooding and develop alternatives that could reduce the risk of flooding along the Buffalo Bayou and its tributaries, in Harris and Fort Bend Counties, Texas. The study will also complete a Dam Safety Modification Evaluation on the Addicks and Barker Dams. Alternatives that may be considered as a means to reduce flooding or address dam safety concerns could include structural solutions, such as tunnels, bypass channels, diversions, levees, detention, auxiliary spillway improvements, operational changes, or a new reservoir; and non-structural solutions, such as property acquisition, flood warning systems, and flood proofing.

The Study is being conducted under Section 216 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (Public Law 91-611) and existing project authority. Section 216 allows USACE to review completed navigation, flood control, and water supply projects in which there have been significant changes in the physical or economic conditions since they were first constructed. Since the Addicks and Barker Dams were constructed in the 1940s, a number of physical improvements and operational changes to the project have been implemented in response to steady growth of the Houston metropolitan area. However, the watershed continues to experience major flood events, including the most recent and most significant occurring during Hurricane Harvey in 2017.

The USACE invites interested individuals and organizations to attend one of the five scheduled Public Scoping Meetings that will be held at the following dates and locations:

Tuesday, April 30, 2019

5:00 – 8:00 pm Kingsland Baptist Church Activity Center 20555 Kingsland Blvd Katy, TX 77450

Tuesday, May 7, 2019

5:00 – 8:00 pm Trini Mendenhall Community Center 1414 Wirt Rd Houston, TX 77055 Thursday, May 2, 2019

5:00 – 8:00 pm Saint John Vianney Catholic Church Activity Center 625 Nottingham Oaks Trail Houston, TX 77079

Wednesday, May 8, 2019

5:00 – 8:00 pm University of Houston Downtown Wilhelmina Cullen Robertson Auditorium 3rd Floor (Main Street Level) of Academic Building* 1 Main St., A350 Houston, TX 77002 Thursday, May 9, 2019

6:00 – 9:00 pm*
Cypress Ridge High School
9th Grade Cafeteria
7900 N Eldridge Parkway
Houston, TX 77041

*Presentation given at 6:30, 7:30 and 8:30

*Visitor Parking available at 201 Girard St, Houston, TX 77002

The meetings will follow an open house style format in which display boards describing the problems, purpose and need, and study process will be available for review. A formal presentation will be given at 5:30, 6:30, and 7:30 pm, unless otherwise noted above, and last about 30 minutes; however, there will not be a formal question and answer session during the presentation. Staff will be available to answer questions and take comments throughout the evening. All material presented will be the same for each meeting.

The USACE is soliciting comments from the public regarding the scope of the study, potential alternatives that should be considered, and environmental resources and impacts that should be addressed during the study process. Comments will be accepted during the 30-day scoping period beginning on April 29, 2019. Comments received will be used in the development of the EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Comments can be provided in one of three ways:

- Fill out a comment card at any of the Public Scoping Meetings
- Submit electronically to: BBTRS@usace.army.mil
- Mail to: USACE, Galveston District, Attn: BBTRS, P.O. Box 1229, Galveston, TX 77553-1229

For additional information on the study, visit the USACE Galveston website at: https://www.swg.usace.army.mil/Missions/Projects/Buffalo-Bayou-and-Tributaries-Resiliency-Study/

Douglas C. Sims, PMP, RPA Chief, Environmental Branch

Regional Planning and Environmental Center