



Public Notice

**U.S. Army Corps
Of Engineers**

Galveston District

Permit Application No: SWG-2022-00077

Date Issued: 7 July 2022

Comments

Due: 8 August 2022

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, GALVESTON DISTRICT

PURPOSE OF PUBLIC NOTICE: To inform you of a proposal for work in which you might be interested. It is also to solicit your comments and information to better enable us to make a reasonable decision on factors affecting the public interest. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is not the entity proposing or performing the proposed work, nor has the Corps taken a position, in favor or against the proposed work.

AUTHORITY: This application will be reviewed pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

APPLICANT: City of League City
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League City, Texas 77573-3837
POC: Christopher Sims, P.E.
Telephone: 281-554-1440
Email: Christopher.Sims@leaguecitytx.gov

AGENT: Kimley-Horn and Associates, Inc.
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Houston, Texas 77079-1260
POC: Carland Holstead
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Email: Carland.Holstead@kimley-horn.com

LOCATION: The project site is located in Magnolia Creek and Cedar Gully, west of Interstate 45 and south of Main Street, in League City, Galveston County, Texas. The project can be located on the U.S.G.S. quadrangle map titled: Algoa, Texas.

LATITUDE & LONGITUDE (NAD 83):

Latitude: 29.478651° North; **Longitude:** 095.148884° West

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The applicant proposes to discharge dredged or fill material into a total of 7,361 linear feet of streams (1.72 acres), 4.22 acres of emergent wetlands and 0.1 acre of open water. This project proposes modifications to Magnolia Creek, Cedar Gully, and three existing detention basins. The tributaries will be regraded and resized to accommodate for NOAA Atlas 14 rainfall data. The resizing will help ensure that drainage into the system from residential subdivisions (Westover Park, Countryside, Magnolia Creek, Rustic Oaks, and Jensen Colony) is meeting design standards and does not result in structural flooding within the neighborhoods. De-snagging of the waterways will also occur with this work. Another aspect of the project is correcting failed erosion control structures and stabilizing side-slopes. These corrections will increase long-term channel stability, reduce long-term maintenance costs, and maintain flood control function of the channels. The project will modify stormwater outlets in the Magnolia Creek Subdivision to improve conveyance to the channel. The existing culvert at the Summer Place crossing of Magnolia Creek will also be modified into a staged culvert opening by placing multiple barrels at different elevations. The project proposes impacts to a detention basin.

AVOIDANCE AND MINIMIZATION: The applicant has stated that they have avoided and minimized the environmental impacts by avoiding impacts to 4,778 linear feet (1.18 acres) of streams, 7.53 acres of emergent wetlands, and 21.46 acres of open water features.

MITIGATION: The applicant has stated that the project will restore the original flow regime within Magnolia Creek and Cedar Gully resulting in a net gain of stream function and values. Therefore, no additional compensatory mitigation has been proposed for this project.

CURRENT SITE CONDITIONS: The project site is a suburban area with multiple residential subdivisions, some commercial properties and typical drainage features built over the last 40 years, with the majority of the residential construction occurring within the last 20 years. The drainage channels are a combination of straightened, rerouted unnamed tributaries, and drainage ways constructed through uplands. The drainage system also includes detention/retention basins.

NOTES: This public notice is being issued based on information furnished by the applicant. This project information has not been verified by the Corps. The applicant's plans are enclosed in 84 sheets.

A preliminary review of this application indicates that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required. Since permit assessment is a continuing process, this preliminary determination of EIS requirement will be changed if data or information brought forth in the coordination process is of a significant nature.

Our evaluation will also follow the guidelines published by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency pursuant to Section 404 (b)(1) of the CWA.

OTHER AGENCY AUTHORIZATIONS: Consistency with the State of Texas Coastal Management Plan is required. The applicant has stated that the proposed activity complies with Texas' approved Coastal Management Program goals and policies and will be conducted in a manner consistent with said program.

The proposed project will trigger review under Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality will review this application under Section 401 of the CWA and in accordance with Title 30, Texas Administrative Code Section 279.1-13 to determine if the work would comply with State water quality standards. The applicant has not yet reached out to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to initiate the Section 401 CWA process. If you have comments or questions on this proposed project's State water quality certification, please contact 401certs@tceq.texas.gov. You may also find information on the Section 401 process here: <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-401/basic-information-cwa-section-401-certification>.

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES: The Corps Staff Archaeologist has reviewed the latest published version of the National Register of Historic Places, lists of properties determined eligible, and other sources of information. The following is current knowledge of the presence or absence of historic properties and the effects of the undertaking upon these properties:

The permit area has been so extensively impacted by construction, channelization, and maintenance of the drainage canals and residential development that there is no potential for historic properties to exist within the permit area. Therefore, the proposed project has no potential to effect historic properties.

THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES: Preliminary indications are that no known threatened and/or endangered species or their critical habitat will be affected by the proposed work.

ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT: This notice initiates the Essential Fish Habitat consultation requirements of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Our initial determination is that the proposed action would not have a substantial adverse impact on Essential Fish Habitat or federally managed fisheries in the Gulf of Mexico. Our final determination relative to project impacts and the need for mitigation measures is subject to review by and coordination with the National Marine Fisheries Service.

PUBLIC INTEREST REVIEW FACTORS: This application will be reviewed in accordance with 33 CFR 320-332, the Regulatory Programs of the Corps, and other pertinent laws, regulations and executive orders. The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impacts, including cumulative impacts, of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefits, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal, will be considered: among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, floodplain values, land use, navigation, shore erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs and, in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

SOLICITATION OF COMMENTS: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public, Federal, State, and local agencies and officials, Indian tribes, and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Impact Assessment and/or an EIS pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act. Comments are also used to determine the need for a public hearing and to determine the overall public interest of the proposed activity.

This public notice is being distributed to all known interested persons in order to assist in developing facts upon which a decision by the Corps may be based. For accuracy and completeness of the record, all data in support of or in opposition to the proposed work should be submitted in writing setting forth sufficient detail to furnish a clear understanding of the reasons for support or opposition.

PUBLIC HEARING: The purpose of a public hearing is to solicit additional information to assist in the evaluation of the proposed project. Prior to the close of the comment period, any person may make a written request for a public hearing, setting forth the particular reasons for the request. The District Engineer will determine if the reasons identified for holding a public hearing are sufficient to warrant that a public hearing be held. If a public hearing is warranted, all known interested persons will be notified of the time, date, and location.

CLOSE OF COMMENT PERIOD: All comments pertaining to this public notice must reach this office on or before **8 August 2022**. Extensions of the comment period may be granted for valid reasons provided a written request is received by the limiting date. **If no comments are received by that date, it will be considered that there are no objections.** Comments and requests for additional information should reference our file number, **SWG-2022-00077**, and should be submitted to:

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DISTRICT ENGINEER
GALVESTON DISTRICT
CORPS OF ENGINEERS