



CITY OF HOUSTON
Housing and Community Development Department

Annise D. Parker

Mayor

Neal Rackleff
Director
601 Sawyer Street, Suite 400
Houston, Texas 77007

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September 19, 2013

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

As required by federal regulation 24 CFR Part 58, attached is a copy of a public notice entitled Revised Finding of No Significant Impact/Notice of Intent to Request Release of Funds (FONSI-NOIRROF) for your review, which has a publication date for September 19, 2013, in the Houston Chronicle. The notice addresses the Disaster Recovery Round 2 Single Family project, which is a project for which the Housing & Community Development Department is seeking Disaster Recovery Round 2 funding to assist residents of single family homes in gaining access to Hurricane Ike repairs. It has been reviewed environmentally by HCDD. This letter, which has the FONSI-NOIRROF public notice attached, serves as a reminder and a reference to that public notice.

Please forward any comments not already forwarded to:

Neal Rackleff, Director
ATTN: Kimesha E. Sonnier
Department of Housing and Community Development
601 Sawyer, 4th Floor
Houston, Texas 77007

If any additional information is needed, please contact Matt Jenkins at (713) 868-8401.

Sincerely,

Kimesha E. Sonnier
Environmental Investigator IV
Compliance and Monitoring Division

KES: mj
Attachments

REVISED COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

September 19, 2013
City of Houston
Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD)
601 Sawyer, 4th Floor
Houston, TX 77007
(713) 868-8324

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited two separate but related procedural notification requirements.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about Monday, October 7, 2013 City of Houston’s Housing and Community Development Department will submit a request to the Texas General Land Office (GLO), who is acting in the role of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of federal funds for the release of Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Round 2.2 (CDBG-DR) funds authorized by Consolidated Security, Disaster Assistance, and Continuing Appropriations Act, (Public Law 110-329), enacted on September 30, 2008, as amended. These particular funds are part of a CDBG grant administered by the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for Hurricane Ike Disaster Relief. GLO will act in the stead of the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and be overseen by HUD. Any Multi-family Demolition, Reconstruction, Rehabilitation, and New Construction activities will go through a separate environmental clearance.

The funds will be utilized to undertake the following project:

Project Title: **Single Family Disaster Recovery Round 2 Activity**

Location: **Acres Homes, Independence Heights, Northside Village, Greater Fifth Ward, OST-South Union, and Sunnyside.** These selected neighborhoods are located in **Houston, Harris County, Texas.**

Purpose of project: The purpose of the Single Family Home Repair Disaster Recovery Round 2 Program which will be carried out within identified targeted areas by the City of Houston is to provide financial assistance to very low to moderate income homeowners. The assistance will allow eligible homeowners that sustained damage to their homes as a result of Hurricane Ike to rehabilitate or reconstruct their homes. The City anticipates being able to rehabilitate approximately 75 homes with a maximum cost of \$65,000 per home, to reconstruct approximately 300 homes and to construct approximately 25 newly constructed homes with an estimated maximum cost of \$150,000 per home in urban areas targeted for revitalization and redevelopment.

The Single Family Home Repair Disaster Round 2 Program will assist activities for four hundred (400) households with a not to exceed budget of forty-five million three hundred fifty-eight thousand five hundred seventy-nine dollars (\$45,358,579.00).

GLO Contract No.: **13-182-000-7295**

Total DIDR2 Federal Funding:..... \$152,215,565.00

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Houston has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of

1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the above address and is available for public examination or copying weekdays 8 A.M. to 5 P.M.

REVIEW PROCESS

In accordance with §58.15, a tiered review process has been structured, whereby some environmental laws and authorities have been reviewed for the target area and other applicable laws and authorities will be complied with, when individual projects are ripe for review. Once the lots are selected, each lot will undergo an environmental review.

None of the properties selected will adversely impact (or be adversely impacted by) a floodplain, a wetland, an endangered species zone or a historical property. No lot will be adversely affected by hazardous operations or toxic, hazardous or radioactive materials, contamination, chemicals or gases. Noise attenuation will be performed for the dwellings as necessary per 24 CFR Part 51. While certain lots to be selected will be in the 100-year floodplain as allowed by Disaster Recovery Round 2 rules, an 8-step process is in place for this project, and the impacts to the floodplain of rehabilitation and reconstruction of existing homes will not be adverse.

The ERR on file documents the environmental determinations for this project, and more fully describes the tiered review process cited above.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the City of Houston, Housing and Community Development Department, ATTN: Environmental Review Officer, 601 Sawyer, 4th Floor, Houston, Texas 77007. All comments received by the close of business on Friday, October 4, 2013 will be considered by the City of Houston prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Houston certifies to GLO, acting in the role of HUD, that Annise Parker, in her capacity as Mayor, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. GLO's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of Houston to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

GLO will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Houston certification received by the close of business on Tuesday, October 22, 2013 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of Houston approved by GLO; (b) the City of Houston, as Responsible Entity, has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by GLO; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to: Texas General Land Office, Disaster Recovery Division c/o Environmental Team, 3429 Executive Center Drive, Suite 150, Austin, Texas 78731. Potential objectors should contact GLO to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Annise Parker, Mayor
City of Houston