

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

November 1, 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 Tuesday, November 19, 2013, on behalf of Buffalo Bayou Partnership, City of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Economic Development Initiative (EDI) funds authorized by Title I, Section 108(q) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383, 42 U.S.C. 5308), to undertake a project known as:

Project Title: Acquisition of Easement on a Land Tract on Buffalo Bayou for Recreational Purposes

Location: 6901 Avenue V, Houston, TX 77011

Purpose of project: Purchase of an easement on the land for a 0.467 tract along the west bank of Buffalo Bayou in east Houston for the purpose of creating a natural area park, with possible future development of a walking trail on site.

Grant No.: B-10-SP-TX-0054

Grant Amount: \$22,271.11. Please note that \$177,728.89 has been spent previously from this \$200,000.00 EDI grant on a prior purchase of land in the same vicinity. The remaining funds to be approved are solely for the easement purchase.

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.

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 Monday, November 18, 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 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. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the Buffalo Bayou Partnership to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Houston certification received by the close of business on Wednesday, December 4, 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 HUD; (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 HUD; 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: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 1301 Fannin Street, Suite 2200, Houston, Texas 77002. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Annise Parker, Mayor
City of Houston