

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

April 29, 2020  
City of Houston,  
Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD)  
2100 Travis St., 9<sup>th</sup> floor  
Houston, TX 77002  
(832) 394-6018

**These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Houston, HCDD.**

**REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS**

On or about May 15, 2020 the City of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), for the release of the following funds:

*Section 420 of the Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2016 ([Pub. L. 114-113](#), approved December 18, 2015) (Appropriations Act) makes available \$300 million in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funds for necessary expenses related to disaster relief, long-term recovery, restoration of infrastructure and housing, and economic revitalization in the most impacted and distressed areas resulting from a major disaster declared in 2015, pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act of 1974 ([42 U.S.C. 5121](#) et seq.), related to the consequences of Hurricane Joaquin and adjacent storm systems, Hurricane Patricia, and other flood events.*

*The City of Houston's Housing and Community Development Department (HCDD) submitted an Action Plan for Disaster Recovery—2015 Flood Events (Plan) to HUD on September 19, 2016 and updated November 17, 2016. The Federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) awarded on December 7, 2016 to the City of Houston \$66,560,000 in federal funds associated with disasters declared on May 29, 2015 (DR-4223) and on November 25, 2015 (DR-4245).*

*The funds being used for this project are part of the Action Plan described above and are authorized by the laws identified in the first paragraph describing said funds. They are Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds, and they will be used to undertake a project known as:*

**Project Title:** Spellman Detention Basin.

**Project Location:** This project is generally bound by Bankside Rd. on the north, Bellbrook Dr. on the east, West Bellfort St. on the south and Unit No. D140-00-00 (Fondren Diversion Channel) to the west, Houston, Harris County, TX 77096. Coordinates: 29.658501, -95.504476

**Project description:**

The City has identified three parcels of land adjacent to Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) Unit No. D140-00-00 (Fondren Diversion Channel) in the Brays Bayou watershed, on which to locate a detention basin, known as Spellman Detention Basin. The purpose of this project is to reduce water surface elevations in surrounding areas in order to diminish flood risks and decrease downstream flooding in nearby neighborhoods. Houston Public Works (HPW) will utilize \$17,752,586.00 in CDBG DR15 Second Allocation Flood Event funds to acquire and develop the detention basin.

The project area totals approximately 17 acres and consists of real estate acquisition of three parcels, clearing of undeveloped land, pavement repairs, excavation and construction of a detention basin, and demolition of existing structures for nine (9) storage facilities and a library. In addition, storm sewer improvements along West Bellfort, and associated pavement repairs, will be included.

The detention basin will provide a reduction in the water surface elevation during the 100-year storm event for both Willow Waterhole and the Fondren Diversion Channel. The basin is proposed to have a maximum volume of 208 acre-feet. This Project will benefit approximately 309 houses.

HPW will be responsible for managing the design and construction and assigning a Project Manager to oversee bid and advertisement. The total construction budget is \$18,555,665.00, of which \$803,079.00 is funded by HPW and \$17,752,586.00 is funded by HCDD.

**Budget Breakdown:**

\$6,842,271.00.....	Land Acquisition
\$6,957,763.00.....	Construction
\$1,040,185.00.....	Design Phase
\$814,058.00.....	Administration (Construction Management)
\$361,804.00.....	Testing Services
\$2,539,584.00.....	Contingency
<b>\$18,555,665.00.....</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>

**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). The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to P.O. Box 1562, Houston, TX 77251-1562 or 2100 Travis St., 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Houston, TX 77002 or by email to [hcdenvironmental@houstontx.gov](mailto:hcdenvironmental@houstontx.gov). The ERR can be accessed online at the following website <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/environmental-review-records/>.

## **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Houston, Housing and Community Development Department, ATTN: Environmental Review Officer, 2100 Travis, 9th Floor, Houston, Texas 77002 or by email to [hcdenvironmental@houstontx.gov](mailto:hcdenvironmental@houstontx.gov). The ERR can be accessed online at the following website <https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/environmental-review-records/>. All comments received by the close of business on May 14, 2020 will be considered by the City of Houston prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commenters should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION**

The City of Houston certifies to HUD that Sylvester Turner, in his 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 City of Houston to use Program funds.

## **OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS**

HUD will accept objections to its release of fund and the City of Houston certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual 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 of the City of Houston; (b) the City of Houston 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 development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities 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, Sec. 58.76) 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.

*Sylvester Turner, Mayor*  
*City of Houston*

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