

June 22, 2018

PUBLIC NOTICE:

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROJECTS PENDING FUNDING BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA)

Notification is hereby given of the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA's) pending intent to provide Hazard Mitigation Grant Program funding for City of Houston elevation, mitigation reconstruction and acquisition projects. Funds will be provided in accordance with the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Public Law 93-288, as amended.

Under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and EO 11988, FEMA is required to provide public notice of any proposed actions in or affecting floodplains or wetlands.

The City of Houston, Texas proposes to apply for mitigation strategies to assist flood prone properties. Several properties located in a floodplain and out of the floodplain were severely damaged and have been invited to participate in a project that will remove the damaged properties through acquisition, elevation or mitigation reconstruction. The City identified a small number of preliminarily eligible properties from the determined flood vulnerable areas that had experienced past losses, these properties may be participating in these applications and may be acquired/demolished or elevated.

For the proposed applications, the voluntary acquisition of existing flood-prone structures and the underlying land will be conducted and the land will be converted to open space through the demolition of the structure. The properties for elevation and mitigation reconstruction will have their First Floor Elevation (FFE) raised above the Base Flood Elevation (BFE) for the area. If acquired, the property must be deed-restricted in perpetuity to open space uses to restore and/or conserve the natural floodplain functions- Per 2015 HMA Guidance pg 45 E.1.1. and 44 CFR Part 80.

Funding for the proposed project will be conditional upon compliance with all applicable federal, state, tribal, and local laws, regulations, floodplain standards, permit requirements, and conditions. Some properties are located in a Special Flood Hazard Area, as indicated in the FIRM maps. Therefore, this project may affect the wetlands or floodplains in the proposed areas. Because of this, alternatives have been considered: No action was considered for these projects, but that was determined not to be the best solution for these properties as it would leave the properties in harm's way of future flooding and allow the homeowners to continue to experience repetitive flooding and damage. The City of Houston will be responsible for the implementation and monitoring of the project.

Within 15 days, interested persons may submit comments, obtain more detailed information about the action, or request a copy of the findings by contacting FEMA's Region VI office which is located at 800 North Loop 288, Denton, Texas, 76209. Requests can also be made to the local program (713) 470-9762, or email address at Hazard.Mitigation@houstontx.gov, or FEMA Regional Environmental Officer at (940) 383-7224.