

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain

To: All interested Federal, State, and Local Agencies (FEMA, U.S. EPA Region 6, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Harris County Flood Control District, and the General Land Office (GLO)) and the Public at Large

This is to give notice that the **City of Houston Housing & Community Development Department** has conducted an evaluation as required by **Executive Order 11988**, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management, to determine the potential affect that its activity in the floodplain and wetland will have on the human environment for **Disaster Recovery Round 2 single family rehabilitation and reconstruction activity**, under GLO contract number 13-182-000-7295, **for the purpose of assisting low to moderate income individuals and families who were impacted by storm damage from Hurricane Ike**. This Final Notice and Public Review is part of a tiered review per federal environmental regulations found at 24 CFR 58.15, which allows a blanket environmental review to be performed for properties in a specific area before they are selected. **This project will cover approximately 400 units of housing.**

The proposed project(s) will be located within the boundaries of the neighborhoods depicted by the six accompanying maps: Acres Homes, Independence Heights, Northside Village, Greater Fifth Ward, OST-South Union, and Sunnyside. A total of **5,460 acres** are in the 100-year floodplain have the potential to be impacted, not including floodway areas where federally funded single family housing is not allowed. Acres Homes has 1,419 acres in the 100-year floodplain; Independence Heights has 822 acres in the 100-year floodplain; Northside Village has 457 acres in the 100-year floodplain; Greater Fifth Ward has 1,539 acres in the 100-year floodplain, OST-South Union has 75 acres in the 100-year floodplain, and Sunnyside has 1,148 acres in the 100-year floodplain. These selected neighborhoods are located in **Houston, Harris County, Texas**.

Each applicant, occupant, or homeowner located within the 100-year floodplain will be required to sign an Emergency Management Disaster Acknowledgment form acknowledging the following:

Applicant/Occupant/Homeowner has read and understood the Emergency Management Disaster Preparedness Statement and HCDD's obligations; Applicant/Occupant/Homeowner has received the pamphlet Hurricane and Disaster Preparedness Guide; Applicant/Occupant/Homeowner has registered with the Emergency Notification System (ENS). has registered (Individual Resident or Facility) with the State of Texas Emergency Assistance Registry (STEAR) online or called 2-1-1, and that Relationship Manager/Intake Counselor has informed the applicant/occupant/homeowner (client) about HCDD's obligations and client(s) is/are aware of the said responsibility.

The **City of Houston Housing & Community Development Department** has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

- (i) (1) performing the project as proposed--including homes in the 100-year floodplain (but not the floodway);
- (2) Avoiding the 100-year floodplain in the course of this project and,

(3) the "no action" alternative, or not performing any project at all .

(ii) Alternative 1 was selected on the grounds that the Disaster Recovery program specifically allows for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of homes that are in the 100-year floodplain, and because providing assistance to homes in the floodplain would provide the maximum aid possible to persons whose homes sustained damages from the storm;

Alternative 2 was rejected on the grounds that while it would have made the overall process for this project simpler, it would have denied assistance to eligible beneficiaries of the Disaster Recovery Program and would have left too many areas of Houston that sustained storm damage ineligible for aid, and

Alternative 3 was rejected on the grounds that the "no action" alternative would have needlessly denied Disaster Recovery assistance to all homes that needed it without reason or justification.

(iii) Any and all mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values to the floodplain, as well as any FEMA final or conditional LOMA or LOMR dates, will be determined as each individual site is reviewed as applicable [Cite the date of any final or conditional LOMR's or LOMA's from FEMA where applicable.

City of Houston Housing & Community Development Department has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of **Executive Order 11988** are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments. This activity will have no significant impact on the environment for the following reasons:

The City of Houston has determined that there is no significant impact foreseen on area 100-year floodplains because the work to be performed will be solely for existing homes and will not involve occupying undeveloped areas the floodplain with new construction, plus mitigation measures will be implemented on a site-specific basis as each individual project is reviewed.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and those who have an interest in the protection of the natural environment should be given an opportunity to express their concerns and provide information about these areas. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas. Third, as a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by the **City of Houston Housing & Community Development Department** at the following address on or before **Thursday, August 29, 2013**. Attention: **Kimesha E. Sonnier, Environmental Section Supervisor**. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from **8:00 AM to 5:00 PM** at **601 Sawyer, 4th Floor, Houston, Texas 77007**. Comments may also be submitted via email at kimesha.sonnier@houstontx.gov and telephone inquiries may be directed to **(713) 868-8324**.

Date: August 22, 2013