



# CITY OF HOUSTON

**Stephen C. Costello**

Chief Recovery Officer

P.O. Box 1562

Houston, Texas 77251-1562

March 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019

Chief W. Nim Kidd  
Texas Division of Emergency Management  
Texas Department of Public Safety  
5805 North Lamar Blvd.  
Austin, Texas 78752

Subject: Inwood Golf Course Detention and Lake Houston Dam Application Progress  
Attention: David Jackson

Dear Chief Kidd,

The City of Houston has held recurring meetings with TDEM and FEMA reviewers for detailed discussions on all Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) applications. These have been very productive and helpful in identifying key next steps and for each application, specifically for the Lake Houston Dam and Inwood Golf Course Detention projects. I would like to thank you for your continuous support and of your staff in working to advance these projects. At the last meeting held on Thursday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019, it was determined that the City would amend the applications to include revisions to the scope of work and narrative, budget and costing, and Benefit-Cost Analysis (BCA) components. The City will work with our consultant to provide the necessary updates to the applications in order to obtain approval of Phase 1 for both projects. We have received an extension to provide responses for both applications for the last week of March.

I also would like to thank you for your continued support in obtaining the HAZUS approval for the completion of the Inwood Golf Course application. This will allow the City to begin work and provide the information needed and requested by FEMA for BCA evaluation and final approval of Phase 1. However, we are encountering challenges with the BCA calculations for Lake Houston Dam. FEMA has requested that the City complete a full-scale downstream analysis on the impacts of the addition of the gates to the existing structure as part of the BCA requirements to obtain Phase 1 approval. If required to proceed through this route, a 3-month study would be needed which would further delay the approval process for Phase 1 of the Lake Houston Dam application.

Because of the extensive analysis required, the City respectfully requests for this work to be considered for Phase 2 approval and to be completed during Phase 1, as typically these efforts are considered within the design phase. Taking into consideration the operations plan of the dam, the City does not anticipate any downstream impacts. Therefore, obtaining an approval to proceed with Phase 1 (design and permitting), without inclusion of downstream impacts, will allow for our HMGP team to review these in detail within the design phase. Furthermore, it is important to take into consideration that results of the HMGP San Jacinto Watershed Study, currently being performed by Harris County Flood Control District and granted in February of 2019, will provide additional information for the downstream analysis.

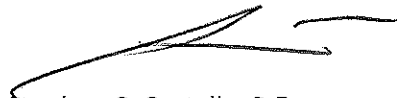
Therefore, completing a downstream impact analysis at this time could result in further duplication that will require future revision.

The City understands the importance in considering the downstream components of this project and will ensure that these are carefully studied during the design phase. Should the approval to perform the analysis during Phase 1 - prior to Phase 2 approval - be granted, it will allow for the Lake Houston Dam application to continue to advance while meeting all other necessary requirements for a Phase 1 approval.

During our meeting, FEMA Region 6 mitigation representatives indicated that this request would be addressed with FEMA leadership. We would like to follow-up on this matter and respectfully request your assistance to obtain a resolution.

I look forward to your response as the City continues to revise all other components of the applications to meet the response deadlines provided by FEMA. I thank you for your continued support as we work together to advance Harvey recovery projects to protect our residents.

Thank you,



Stephen C. Costello, P.E  
Chief Recovery Officer  
City of Houston

Cc: Mayor Sylvester Turner  
Bill Kelly, Director - Government Affairs, City of Houston  
Maureen Crocker – Assistant Director, Houston Public Works