



LINA HIDALGO



**Mayor
Sylvester Turner**

June 4, 2019

The Honorable Mick Mulvaney
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Mulvaney:

As a result of the overwhelming damage from Hurricane Harvey, in February of 2018, Congress passed and the President signed legislation allocating \$12 billion for Community Development Block Grants for mitigation, \$4.3 billion in disaster repair funds for Texas. The Department of Housing and Urban Development has indicated the Office of Management and Budget has stopped the publication of the rules and regulations for the release of these funds to our region.

Texans are fierce, independent; they showed great bravery in combating the floodwaters from Harvey. However, June 1st marked the beginning of the 2019 hurricane season and their patience is over in waiting for federal mitigation funding. We need these rules published now so that they funds can be released.

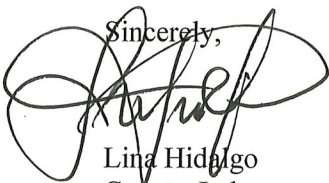
Both the City of Houston and Harris County are administrating billion-dollar housing repair and construction programs, but we need these mitigation dollars to protect our communities.

Congress is expected to pass S. 1693, the National Flood Insurance Program Extension Act of 2019, which mandates the publication of these rules within 90 days. We are grateful members of our Congressional and Senate delegation for inserting this accountability countdown. Even still, if the full 90 days is taken it will be nearly two years after Harvey until rules are finally published.

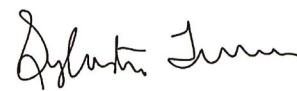
Two years.

There is simply no good reason why Texans, who experienced one of the worst natural disasters in the history of North America, have had to wait this long. Please publish these rules as soon as possible so we can begin building infrastructure to protect our communities against damage from the next big storm.

Sincerely,



Lina Hidalgo
County Judge



Sylvester Turner
Mayor