



# CITY OF HOUSTON

**Sylvester Turner**

Mayor

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September 12, 2018

The Honorable Governor Greg Abbott  
Governor of the State of Texas  
Office of the Governor  
State Insurance Building  
1100 San Jacinto Boulevard  
Austin, Texas 78701

**Re: Letter of Support for use of Disaster Grant Agreement No. FC77376A 2017-0810 Funds for Silt Debris Removal from Lake Houston**

Dear Governor Abbott:

As mayor of the City of Houston (“City”), I write this letter to emphasize my support for using funds from the Grant Agreement between the Office of the Governor and the City of Houston, Contract. No. FC77376A 2017-0810 (the “Grant”) for removing Hurricane Harvey-generated silt debris from Lake Houston, Harris County, Texas. Shortly after Hurricane Harvey, your office demonstrated its initial support for the City’s recovery efforts by providing the Grant, which awarded the City \$50 million dollars and authorizes the City to use \$25 million dollars for debris removal costs permitted under Category A, as more fully stated in the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Public Assistance Program and Policy Guide and any other relevant FEMA guidance.

At the time of the Grant’s execution, the City’s estimated local non-federal cost share for traditional debris removal efforts was approximately \$25 million. Having recently passed the one-year anniversary of Harvey, the City expects the costs associated with the traditional debris removal program to be lower than initially estimated. To address additional Harvey-related debris strategies, the City proposes to remove Section A silt deposits located at the confluence of the San Jacinto River and Lake Houston as part of the existing FEMA eligible debris removal projects for the City.

The City will utilize \$15-\$20 million dollars of the existing Grant funds for this project, specifically to remove silt debris from Lake Houston. Use of the Grant funds would allow the City to address the silt deposits and other debris which remain in the waters of the San Jacinto River and Lake Houston post-Hurricane Harvey. This debris must be collected and disposed of as soon as possible in the interest of the health, safety and welfare of City of Houston residents.

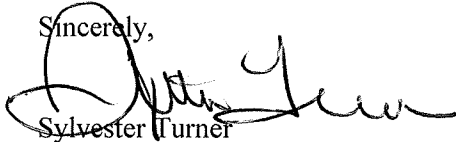
The silt debris removal project entails:

- Stage 1 Assessment and Planning: Identify Harvey-deposited silt target areas above and below lake-level using topographic surface data (LiDAR and Bathymetry) for Section A.
- Stage 2 Silt Debris Removal Operation: Begin collection of Harvey-deposited silt targets within Section A.
- Stage 3 Confirmation and Closeout: Obtain confirmation of work completed in target areas within Section A.

Notably, these costs are permissible as debris removal under Category A, per FEMA guidance. Removal of this debris is a critical component of the disaster recovery process for the City. As such, I ardently support the use of Grants funds for

this vital portion of the City's recovery efforts. Thank you for your continued support of Houston's Hurricane Harvey recovery.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sylvester Turner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "S" and "T".

Sylvester Turner  
Mayor

cc: Chief Nim Kidd, Assistant Director, DPS  
Dave Martin, Council Member  
Marvin E. Odum, Chief Recovery Officer  
Harry Hayes, Chief Operating Officer & Director of Solid Waste  
Tantri Emo, Finance Director