

## Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain

To All interested Agencies:

Federal: Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) /

State: Texas Water Development Board / Local: Local Floodplain Administrator

Groups and Individuals:

This is to give notice that HUD under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under Texas General Land Office HUD MID Infrastructure Competition funding program, GLO Contract #24-067-E215 is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and the City of Mercedes will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management. The proposed project location is located in the City of Mercedes, Hidalgo County within the following locations listed: Drainage Improvements Site 1 Along Easement - From intersection of North Street and North Vermont Avenue westward to the outfall west of Mile 1 West Road (26.161699, -97.924254), 2. Detention Pond Site 2 - An area from south of intersection of Mile 1 West Road and Levee Road 3 southward to a point where the existing irrigation easement intersects with Mile 1 West Road, westward to Levee Road 3 (26.161179, -97.927170), and 3. Drainage Improvements Site 3 Along Levee Road 3 - From the northeast corner of intersection of Mile 1 West Road and Levee Road 3 northward to channel (26.165508, -97.925092) in City of Mercedes, Hidalgo County. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using a 0.2 percent flood approach.

The proposed activities consist of tying into the existing storm water infrastructure located at the intersection of North St. and North Vermont Ave. The flow will begin heading west with a 30" HDPE pipe extending 20 linear feet then connected through an adapter, upsizing the pipe to a 36" HDPE for 180 linear feet into two 60" proposed grated manholes. The water will then continue to be conveyed via two 48" HDPE pipes falling into the proposed open cut ditch section within a proposed 80-foot drainage easement with total volume of approximately 5 AC-FT. The proposed open cut ditch section will consist of two concrete canastas out falling with two 48" HDPE pipes into the proposed Detention Pond to hold a total of approximately 35 AC-FT of water. The flow from the detention pond will then be directed towards the northern section of the pond and head northeast, following the levee, discharging through a 36" HDPE pipe for a span of 642 feet into an open ditch consisting of one 24" pipe paving crossing and total volume of approximately 1.59 AC-FT. For this project all the storm water will outfall into Hidalgo County Irrigation District No.9's Interlocal Drain Ditch "80", which ultimately outfalls into the IBWC floodway. This proposed project will fall under mitigation assistance.

The purpose and need for this project are due to the heavy rain events that occur within the residential area east of the project which become inundated with water. This is due to the full pilot channel that crosses "Interstate 2" which becomes easily full allowing water to back-up into the system. When heavy flooding occurs, 2-3 feet of water stands on N. Vermont Ave., which prevents the residents from reaching the Mercedes Emergency Dome Shelter. With the construction of this project, all back flow water will be conveyed to the detention pond and ultimately outfall into the IBWC floodway thus alleviating the surrounding residential population from flooding.

The proposed project area falls within a floodplain under FFRMS – 0.2 PFA Approach and will act as a floodwater storage and conveyance for the surrounding community that struggles with flood water during

heavy rain events. The proposed project falls within open and undisturbed public owned land which generates no cash flow and therefore no intrinsic value can be generated. The total acreage that will be disturbed is approximately 12.92 acres.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in the floodplain 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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplain. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts 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 floodplain, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by City of Mercedes at the following address on or before **November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2024** [a minimum 15 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 16<sup>th</sup> day after the publication]: City of Mercedes, 400 S Ohio Ave, Mercedes, Tx, 78570 and (956) 565-3114, Attention: Oscar D. Montoya Sr., Mayor. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM at 400 S Ohio Ave, Mercedes, Tx, 78570 and at the following web address: <https://cityofmercedes.com/>. Comments may also be submitted via email at [jcastillo@cityofmercedes.com](mailto:jcastillo@cityofmercedes.com)

Date: November 4<sup>th</sup>, 2024