

# PUBLIC NOTICE

## Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in Flood Zone “AH”: 100-Year Floodplain and Designated R5UBFx Wetland

Project: 2018 South Mercedes Lateral Improvements-Phase 3

To: Environmental Protection Agency, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Division of Emergency Management, Texas Historical Commission and all interested agencies, groups, and individuals

This is to give notice that the City of Mercedes has determined that the following proposed action under 2018 South Projects Mercedes Lateral Improvements-Phase 3, (CDBG-DR 2019 Contract No.: 23-152-010-E182) is located in the Federal Flood Risk management Standard (FFRMS) floodplains and wetlands, and the City of Mercedes will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplains and wetlands, and potential impacts on the floodplain and wetlands from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690 and/or Executive Order 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 in Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. The proposed project location is 960 feet east of the intersection of West Levy Road and Del Rio Road, at coordinates 26.129348, -97.926551 in the City of Mercedes, Hidalgo County. The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2 Percent Annual Chance Flood Approach (PFA) community firm panel No: 480344 0003 B.

This project aims to mitigate flooding concerns within the City of Mercedes by constructing a 10.88-acre detention pond adjacent to the existing South Mercedes Lateral. This drainage system is essential for directing stormwater toward the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) Floodway, located south of the city. The detention pond will provide temporary storage for excess rainwater during heavy rainfall events, increasing the system's capacity and reducing flood risks. The project is designed to enhance the city's resilience to extreme rainfall, protect public and private properties. The project potentially impacts approximately 1.21 Acres of a Flood zone “AH” and approximately 0.36 Acres of a wetland.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains and wetlands as well as 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 and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the floodplains and wetlands. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains and wetlands 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 floodplains and wetlands, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by Alberto Perez, City Manager at the following address on or before March 03, 2025. A minimum 15 calendar day comment period will begin the day after the publication and end on the 16th day after the publication: City of Mercedes, 400 S Ohio Ave., Mercedes, TX 78570 (956)565-3114, Attention: Alberto Perez, City Manager. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:00am-5:00pm at the address above, or on the City of Mercedes website: [cityofmercedes.com](http://cityofmercedes.com). Comments may also be submitted via email at [aperez@cityofmercedes.com](mailto:aperez@cityofmercedes.com).

February 14, 2025

**Alberto Perez, City Manager**  
**City of Mercedes**  
**400 S Ohio Ave.**  
**Mercedes, TX 78570**  
**956-565-3114**