

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND
NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS**

Date of Notice: May 13, 2021

Grimes County, 100 Main Street, Anderson, TX 77830, (936) 873-4400

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by Grimes County, Texas.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about 6/1/2021, Grimes County will submit a request to the Texas General Land Office for the release of Texas Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383), as amended, to undertake a project known as the Grimes County Hurricane Harvey Buyout Program 20-066-003-B966, for the purpose of purchasing properties from residents at fair market value in flood-prone areas and convert them open space. The money will be used to offer buyouts to property owners in select areas of the county that are especially prone to flooding. To restore the floodplain structures on the buyout sites (to date seven parcels) will be demolished and the sites returned to a natural state, allowing stormwater to flow through the area without the risk of endangering residents or property. The cleared sites will become recreational or open space, allowing for public use while removing a potential flood hazard. The County estimates up to 17 households under the 2017 Buyout could be assisted through this grant and the project would meet the national objectives of Low to Moderate Buyout, Low to Moderate Housing Incentives, and Urgent Need. Grimes County has been awarded \$1,512,129 in grant funds (project is solely funded by CDBG DR funds). A tiering plan has been created and mitigation measures and strategies will be followed as appropriate for each site-specific and is outlined in the Environmental Review Record.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Grimes County has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Grimes County Courthouse, 100 Main Street, Anderson, TX 77830, (936) 873-4400, and may be examined or copied weekdays from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, or may be requested via email at david.lilly@grimescountytexas.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Office of the County Judge. All comments received by 5/31/2021 will be considered by Grimes County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

Grimes County certifies to GLO that Joe Fauth III in their capacity as County Judge consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. GLO approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows Grimes County to use HUD program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

GLO will accept objections to its release of funds and Grimes County's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of Grimes County approved by GLO (b) Grimes County has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs, or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by GLO; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Texas General Land Office – Community Development and Revitalization at P.O. Box 12873, Austin, Texas 78711-2873. Potential objectors should contact GLO to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Joe Fauth III, County Judge