Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in a Federal Flood Risk Management Standard Designated Floodplain or Wetland

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government under 24 CFR Part 58 has conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order(s) 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 Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under **Resilient Communities Infrastructure Program (RCIP) Project Number 55LDRC7702**. The proposed project location is **at 756 Geraldine Road in Gibson, Terrebonne Parish** and is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain / wetland**.** The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using 0.2 percent flood approach / freeboard value approach**. The proposed Bayou Black Pump Station project is approximately 3.12 acres in total and located within Special Flood Hazard Area (SFHA) Zone AE and Bayou Black - a riverine R2UBH-classified wetland. The wetland type supports functions such as continuous surface water flow and improved water quality. The site is adjacent to existing infrastructure, including a barge gate, floodwall, and the Geraldine Levee. Construction will include the installation of four 66-inch vertical pumps, driven by electric motors, as well as two 2000KW generators and two 277/480V utility pad-mounted transformers. The transformers will be fed from the same existing utility source to power the new pump station, and the generators will be constructed on elevated concrete pads. Concrete piles will also be placed for the elevated land-based components. Construction will also include an electrical building, a parking lot, and an access road on land. The pump station will be in operation when the barge gate is in a closed position. The number of pumps to turn on will be determined by the surface water level at the time of the barge gate being closed. Access to the facility will be provided by using the existing dirt roadway at the crown of the existing Geraldine Levee, which links Geraldine Levee and Geraldine Road south of the facility. Improvements will consist of creating a sloped roadway using earthen fill over the existing roadway, topped with a compacted aggregate limestone surface**. **The proposed action is intended to improve flood management within the Chacahoula-Gibson Basin.**

Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial functions and intrinsic values of the existing floodplain/wetland: The proposed action will improve the risk of flooding within the Chacahoula Gibson Basin, alternatives outside of the floodplain were not considered due to the benefits that the proposed action would provide to the parish to alleviate flood risk. Best Management Practices will be implemented during construction of the pump station to reduce the amount of sediment entering Bayou Black.

Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government has reevaluated alternatives to building in the floodplain/wetland and has determined that it has no practicable alternative to floodplain/wetland development. Environmental files documenting compliance with [Executive Order 11988, as amended by Executive Order 13690, and/or Executive Order 11990], are available for public inspection, review and copying upon request at the times and location delineated in the last paragraph of this notice for receipt of comments.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain/wetland 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. Second, an adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplain/wetland 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/wetland, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk.

Written comments must be received by TPCG at the following address on or before August 6, 2025: terrebonneenvironmental@csrsinc.com. A full description of the project may be reviewed below.

Problem Definition

Instructions:

- All required fields are marked with an *.
- Given you have the proper permissions, use the **SAVE** button to save information and calculate data on each page.
- Save at least every 30 minutes to avoid losing data.

Please fill out the sections below or provide attachments with requested information.

Provide a comprehensive description of the problem this project will address. Including, but not limited to:

- **What are the expected results?**
- **Is this a new/existing problem?**
- **What was the previous use of the site?**
- **Does the problem affect a historic area?**

Terrebonne Parish Consolidated Government (TPCG) has received approval under the FEMA Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant (PDM) program to support construction of a new pump station in the Chacahoula-Gibson Basin at Bayou Black. The FEMA funding requires a 25% non-federal cost share match to complete the total project funding, which is proposed to be covered by Parish RCIP CDBG-DR funds. The objective of this pump station is to reduce the risk of flooding in habitable areas on the south side of the basin and the northern bank of Bayou Black. The new Bayou Black Pump Station will allow the Parish to control water levels during seasonal high tides, while also preventing the northern area of the basin from flooding.

The basin experiences flooding during concentrated rainfall events when the control structures along the southern boundary are closed, which prevents runoff from draining into the marshes and Gulf. During hurricane level events, such as Ida, the impacts are exacerbated. The flooding causes damage to man-made buildings and causes losses to the wetlands in the basin.

The south side of the area has been closed off by a system of levees and tainter gates that have been constructed in each of the canals that drain out of Bayou Black. Natural drainage and storm water runoff accumulates within the levee system when the gates are closed. In addition to the storm water runoff that flows into Bayou Black through the Terrebonne Lafourche drainage canal, the bayou also receives flows from the Lower Atchafalaya River, through the Avoca Island Cutoff Channel during seasons of high river stages. During these periods additional drainage will begin to flow into the Bayou from the northwest end. The flat topography of the lower basin, subsidence, artificial ponding, sea level rise, and high-water levels due to the Atchafalaya River have reduced the effectiveness of gravity drainage, causing flooding. This inability to drain the excess inflow causes the basin to begin to backfill northward and causes backwater flooding in residential areas on the northern bank of Bayou Black.

The section of Bayou Black, in which the proposed pump station is to be constructed, is adjacent to the existing barge gate and floodwall system. This existing structure is located between Geraldine Road and Old Spanish Trail within the protected side of the system. There are no historic areas adjacent that will be affected by this project.

DISASTER RECOVERY ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Does the proposed project have a tie to at least one of the 2020/2021 disasters? Yes *[X]* No

Which disaster does the project tie back to? Select all that apply.

Hurricane Laura Hurricane Ida *[X]* Hurricane Delta May Flood

Explain the project rationalee for the tie-back to the disaster(s):
The Bayou Black community is prone to flooding, especially during high-water seasons and after natural disasters like Hurricane Ida. When Hurricane Ida hit as a Category 4 storm with 150 mph winds, it pushed beyond the capacity of Terrebonne Parishes' flood protection system, which was overwhelmed by the volume of water. Hurricane Ida brought wind damage, heavy rainfall, and power outages. The storm surges in Terrebonne Parish reached 8.30 to 10.30 feet above Mean Higher High Water (MHHW), leading to widespread flooding, property damage, and resident displacement. The pump station will reduce the risk to the nearby community.

Per FR-6303-N-01, HUD requires that grantees demonstrate that they have incorporated mitigation measures into CDBG-DR activities as a construction standard to create communities that are more resilient to the impacts of the recurring natural disasters and the impacts of climate change.

Describe the resiliency efforts and/or performance metrics applicable to this activity.

The construction of the Bayou Black Pump Station supports resilience efforts through the installation of a modern pump station featuring four 66-inch vertical pumps and electric motors. The pump station is strategically designed to activate exclusively when barge gate closures are in effect, thereby serving as an effective measure in extreme conditions. The new pump station will promote long-term resiliency to better withstand, respond, and recover more rapidly from hurricane events. It will help mitigate the overall risk to the population and structures from flooding and future hazardous storm events. Bayou Black Pump Station will be designed and built to be resilient in the face of hazards such as storms and changing environmental conditions by ensuring the pump station will be constructed with reinforced concrete or other durable materials, built to resist high wind loads, and designed for redundance and reliability with multiple pumps and backup power.

The performance metrics will be determined by quantifying the overall increase in pumping capacity and reduction in flooding in surrounding community.

MITIGATION ACTIVITY INFORMATION

Per FRN-6368-N-01, HUD defines mitigation activities as those activities that increase resilience to disasters and reduce or eliminate the long-germ risk of loss of life, injury, damage to and loss of property, and suffering and hardship, by lessening the impact of future disasters.

Does the proposed project meet the definition of a mitigation activity? Yes *[X]* No

Describe the mitigation aspects, including performance metrics applicable to this activity.

The Bayou Black Pump Station will enhance the region's resilience against natural disasters such as hurricanes and flooding. The project's efficacy will be evaluated based on its ability to decrease the water surface elevation during flood incidents and mitigate the risk of flooding in neighboring areas. This mitigation project aims to improve long-term resilience through reducing loss of life or damage to property in future disasters with improved water management infrastructure.

Because of the proximity of the Parish along the Gulf coast, the region is highly prone to tropical storms and hurricanes. Since 1965, twenty presidentially declared disasters have been associated with tropical storms and hurricanes that have impacted the Parish. The Terrebonne Parish Mitigation Plan was updated after Hurricane Ida to better understand and educate the public about the community's risk and resilience in the face of future storms. The Parish's mitigation plan includes a wide spectrum of activities from increased power redundancy, wind risk reduction, local implementation of levees to protect the lower reaches of the Parish, floodgates on every major bayou, the funding of new pump stations and channels, and the design of a lock system to augment floodgates.

Terrebonne Parish recognizes the urgent need for the mitigation of heightened risk of flooding during storm events. This project contains mitigation activities aimed to prevent or reduce loss of life, injury, property damage, and suffering caused by future disasters, as defined by HUD and the Terrebonne Parish Hazard Mitigation Plan and Louisiana's 2024 Hazard Mitigation Plan. Once the pump station is completed, it will function to provide increased protection to the community in the long term.

Flood Risk Information

Attach the appropriate flood profile and discharge tables, if applicable, from the Flood Insurance Study with the project site and elements / improvements marked. Please see the Flood Insurance Study Attachment Examples (Appendix 2) for guidance.

Upload here:

Black Bayou PumpStation FEMA_FIS_map.pdf

Attach the FIRMette from the Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM). FIRMs are typically available from your local floodplain administrator who may be located in the planning, zoning, or engineering office, or the FEMA web page at https://msc.fema.gov/. Maps can also be ordered from the Map Service Center at 1-800-358-9616. Clearly mark all construction areas of the project on the map.

FIRMETTE_Bayou Black.pdf

Additional Flood Risk Information	**Description**
Terrebonne Flood and Discharge Tables.pdf	*Flood and Discharge Tables FIS*

Using the Flood Insurance Study or FIRM, indicate the applicable flood zones for the project site. Check all that apply.

VE or V 1-30
*[X]*AE or A 1-30
AO or AH
A (no base flood elevation given)
B or X (shaded)
C or X (unshaded)
Floodway
Coastal Barrier Resource Act (CBRA) Zone