

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT and NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS and FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FLOODPLAIN

7/3/24

City of Columbus, 605 Spring Street (P. O. Box 87), Columbus, TX 78934-0087
(979) 732-2366

This Notice shall satisfy the above-cited three separate but related procedural notification requirements to be undertaken by the City of Columbus

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about 7/19/24 the City of Columbus (City) will submit a request to the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for the release of Community Development Block Grant Mitigation funding (CDBG-MIT) following the Method of Distribution (MOD) appropriated under the Supplemental Appropriations for Disaster Relief Requirements Act, 2018 (Pub. L. 115-123), as amended, to undertake a project known as Water, Flood & Drainage Improvements to mitigate inadequate stormwater management and provide uninterrupted service with a backup generator at the water plant, under GLO Contract #24-065-059-E569.

Water Improvements: Install a backup generator for water plant, complete electrical work and complete associated appurtenances at the Spring Street Water Plant, at Spring Street @ Front Street (29.70549, -96.53766), Columbus, Colorado County, TX.

Flood & Drainage Improvements: Replace storm sewer, install junction boxes, inlets, curbs and gutters, adjust utilities, replace culverts and complete associated appurtenances in two locations:

Area 1: Austin Street and Houston Street, from the intersection of Wallace Street and Austin Street, north to the intersection of Austin Street and Houston Street, thence east to the intersection of Houston Street and Prairie Street, (29.70129, -96.54553), 1,191 LF and Jackson Street, from the intersection of Live Oak Street to the intersection of Prairie Street, (29.70313, -96.54369), 388 LF.

Area 2: Milam, Robson, Front and Malleck Streets, from the intersection of Smith Street and Milam Street to the intersection of Malleck Street and Charter Street, (29.71181, -96.53887), 2,055 LF; Travis Street, from the intersection of Robson Street and Travis Street, northward on Travis Street for 130 feet, (29.71229, -96.53936), 130 LF, Columbus, Colorado County, TX.

Estimated Total HUD Funds (GLO CDBG-MIT MOD): \$1,018,300.00 (Public Facilities and Improvements – Non-covered Projects - LMI \$677,495.20 and UNM \$340,804.80). There are no matching funds. Estimated Total Project Cost: \$1,018,300.00.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City 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). The ERR will be made available to the public for review either electronically or by U.S. mail. Please submit your request by U.S. mail to the City at the address above, or by email to secretary@columbustexas.net.

FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A FLOODPLAIN

This is to give notice that the City has, under Part 58, conducted an evaluation as required by Executive Order 11988 in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management. Approximately 1.00 acre of project activities on Houston and Austin Streets in Area 1 will occur in Zone A of the 100-Year Floodplain, all within the ROW. Approximately 0.35 acres of project activities on Malleck Street in Area 2 will occur in Zone AE of the 100-Year Floodplain, and approximately 2.00 acres of project activities on the remaining streets will occur in Shaded Zone X of the 500-Year Floodplain, all within the ROW. There are no adverse

effects on the floodplain anticipated as the project activities will mitigate flooding issues that could change the floodplain footprint over time. HUD's 8-Step decision-making process of §55.20 to comply with 24 CFR Part 55 was completed.

The City has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values: (A) Different Location: The Tait Street Water Plant was also originally planned to have a backup generator installed. Due to budget constraints, this portion of the original project scope was removed. Additionally, there is no alternative to performing the flood and drainage activities on streets outside of the floodplain, in order to achieve the project goals. (B) Taking no action would incur no costs but would not address the problem with stormwater conveyance and lack of service at the water plant during power outages.

The City has reevaluated the alternatives to building in the floodplain and has determined that it has no practicable alternative. Environmental files that document compliance with steps 3 through 6 of Executive Orders 11988 are available for public inspection, review and copying as outlined in the paragraph of FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments/objections on the ERR to the City of Columbus. All comments received by 7/18/24 will be considered by the City prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to the City at secretary@columbus.texas.net or by mail to the City at the address above. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing. Potential objectors should contact the City via email to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Columbus certifies to the Texas General Land Office that Lori An Gobert, in her capacity as Mayor, 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's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Columbus to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

GLO will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Columbus' 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 the City of Columbus; (b) the City of Columbus 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 (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 Heather Lagrone, Texas General Land Office, Community Development and Revitalization, P.O. Box 12873, Austin, TX 78711-2873, or env.reviews@recovery.texas.gov. Potential objectors should contact the GLO at (512) 475-5000 to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Lori An Gobert, Mayor