

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

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that Orange County under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Grant B-19-DF-48-0001 is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and wetland area, and Orange County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain and wetlands and the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetlands from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and 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 Orange County Street Improvement project (project) will repair and reconstruct approximately 7,880 linear feet of roadways that were damaged during the 2019 disasters. The improvements proposed under the project are intended to reduce risk of future disaster-related loss of life, suffering and hardship, injury, and property damage. When complete, street improvements are expected to benefit approximately 579 people, of which 49.40 percent (286 people) are low to moderate income.

The project is located southwest of Interstate 10 and State Highway 62 intersection in the eastern portion of Orange County, Texas, along Center Street, Avenue A, Avenue B, Avenue C, Albert Drive, and Stanton Drive. Improvements include repairing and reconstructing roadside ditches by grading and cleaning, repairing driveway and road crossings, and completion of associated appurtenances. Silt, vegetation, and soil from the existing ditches will be excavated to establish proper slopes and improve the flow of stormwater, which will discharge into an existing Orange County Drainage District channel. Improvements to the roadside ditches will be limited to no more than 18 inches deep and less than two additional feet wide. Existing culverts will be removed and replaced with larger culverts, and new culverts will be installed at roadway crossings. One new 30-inch culvert will be constructed approximately 60 feet south of the intersection of Center Street and Avenue C, and two existing 42-inch culverts will be replaced with two six-foot by four-foot box culverts that will be installed at the southern end of Center Street. These larger culverts will increase capacity and flow rate by more than 20 percent. Ground disturbance for reconstructing roadways and replacing culverts will not exceed 15 feet in width or four feet in depth. Approximately 89 existing driveways along the project streets will be repaired. Affected portions of the driveways and roadways will be repaired to their pre-construction state, including same depth and replaced with in kind materials. Vegetation removal is required. All project activities and components, including associated appurtenances, will be within existing city rights-of-way (ROW) and land acquisition will not be required.

The extent of the FFRMS floodplain was determined using the 0.2-Percent-Annual-Chance (500-Year) Flood Approach (0.2PFA). The total project area is approximately 11.49 acres. Approximately 0.72 acres of the project are within the FFRMS. The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 48361C0155D (effective 12/16/2021) shows approximately 0.72 acres of the project are in the A Zone. Based on mapped National Wetland Inventory data, the project will result in the loss of approximately 0.04 acres of Riverine wetlands. Improvements within the mapped wetland areas are limited to Stanton Drive. Floodplains provide flood risk reduction benefits by slowing runoff and storing floodwater. The floodplain provides drainage for surrounding areas as well as the opportunity for natural wetlands and habitats to thrive. Maintaining the floodplain is an invaluable service to the community. Wetlands provide numerous beneficial functions for humans, flora, and fauna including protecting and improving water quality, providing fish and wildlife

habitats, storing floodwaters, and maintaining surface water flow during dry periods. Natural benefits of the floodplain and wetland will not be significantly impacted by the project.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplain and wetlands 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 and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate project impacts on the [floodplain 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 Orange County at the following address on or before August 11, 2025: Attention: Mr. John Gothia, County Judge at 123 South 6th Street, Orange, Texas 77630 and (409) 882-7070. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. at the same address. Comments may also be submitted via email at jgothia@co.orange.tx.us.

Date: July 25, 2025