

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in FFRMS Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals on [6/21/2024]: This is to give notice that the City of Kirbyville has determined that the following proposed action under the Community Development Block Grant Program administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) and ERR #(CDV23-0285), is located in the FFRMS floodplain, and the City of Kirbyville will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, 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 and Protection of Wetlands. The City of Kirbyville proposes a Wastewater Improvements project, including Administrative and Engineering fees and services, and to rehabilitate the wastewater treatment plant including replacement of the canopy structure, sludge bed walls, and sludge bed gates, the replacement of manholes, the installation of sand media, electrical improvements, utility adjustments, and all associated appurtenances. The wastewater treatment plant is located on Smith Street, and project activities will occur on the sludge beds within the grounds of the wastewater treatment plant, at approximately (30.658557°, -93.884880°). Manhole replacement will take place city wide. As an alternative if funds allow, the City of Kirbyville proposes to remove and replace approximately two hundred linear feet (200 LF) of the existing drainage lines within and adjacent to the drying beds, located within the grounds of the wastewater treatment plant. All project activities will take place within the City of Kirbyville, Jasper County, Texas. According to the Federal Flood Standard Support Tool Freeboard Value Approach Report created 6/21/2024, the project shall include activities within approximately 1 acre of the FFRMS floodplain. The natural and beneficial functions and values of the floodplain potentially affected by the proposed activity include floodwater storage and conveyance, groundwater recharge, erosion control, surface water quality maintenance, biological productivity, fish and wildlife habitats, harvest for wild & cultivated products, recreational, educational, scientific, historic, and cultural opportunities. There are three primary purposes for this notice: (1) People who may be affected by activities in floodplains 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, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts; (2) An adequate public notice program can be an important public educational tool. The dissemination of information and request for public comment about floodplains can facilitate and enhance Federal efforts to reduce the risks and impacts associated with the occupancy and modification of these special areas; and (3) As a matter of fairness, when the Federal government determines it will participate in actions taking place in floodplains, it must inform those who may be put at greater or continued risk. Written comments must be received on or before [7/9/2024] by the City of Kirbyville at 107 S Elizabeth Ave, Kirbyville, TX 75956, (409) 423-6191. Attention: Frank George, Mayor. A full description of the project may also be reviewed during regular business hours at the same address. Comments may also be submitted via email to publicworkstonja@yahoo.com CC: sandy.berger@grantworks.net.