

Final Notice and Public Explanation of a Proposed Activity in FFRMS Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals on [7/10/2024]: This is to give notice that the City of Kirbyville has 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 and Wetlands Protection. The activity is funded under the Community Development Block Grant Program and administered by the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) ERR #(CDV23-0285). 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. The City of Kirbyville 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 reduction in scope, alternate locations, and no action. The scope and location of project activities were chosen based on minimum improvements necessary to correct the health and safety risks existing facilities pose to the natural and human environment. Because the project scope includes only system components most in need of repairs, the alternatives considered would preclude correction of these risks or environmental compliance violations. The project was also evaluated for impacts related to future climate related flood levels and sea level rise. Adequate flood proofing measures and BMPs will be in place to prevent adverse impacts. The best action is to proceed with the project as planned utilizing best management practices to protect the natural landscapes that serve to maintain or restore natural hydrology through infiltration and protect the proposed improvements from flood damage. The consulting engineer shall take into consideration additional specifications to minimize damage to and/or restore the native plant species. All state and local floodplain protection procedures will be followed. Additionally, there shall be no significant increase to impervious surface and the project area will be restored to pre-project conditions upon completion. The City of Kirbyville 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 Order 11988 are available for public inspection, review, and copying upon request during regular business hours at the City Hall. 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; (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 [7/18/2024] 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.