

**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 the City of Taft under 24 CFR Part 58 has determined that the following proposed action under Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery Contract 24-065-121-E963 is located in the Federal Flood Risk Management Standard (FFRMS) floodplain and wetlands, and the City of Taft 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 City of Taft Water and Sewer Improvements project (project) will replace approximately 15,844 linear feet of waterlines and 3,450 linear feet of sewer lines within the city limits that were damaged during the disasters that occurred in 2015, 2016, or 2017. 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, the waterline and sewer line improvements are expected to benefit approximately 2,945 people, of which 63.97 percent (1,884 people) are low to moderate income.

Waterline improvements will occur within the central northern portion of the city of Taft along Rose Street, Tutt Avenue, Victoria Avenue, Industrial Street, Park Street, Railroad Avenue, Abazola Street, and Bonita Street. The existing waterlines will be decommissioned and remain in place, and new 10-inch Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) pipelines will be installed parallel to the existing waterlines via open-cut method. Trench excavation will not exceed 5 feet in width or 20 feet in depth. A National Wetlands Inventory riverine wetland is mapped within the project area, north of the water tower at 530 Retama Avenue. This section of the waterline will be installed via horizontal boring to cross underneath the wetland. Entry and exit bore pits will be excavated 10 feet by 15 feet and 12 feet deep on the top of the banks outside of the wetland area. Sewer line improvements will occur along Farm to Market Road (FM) 631/Davis Road within a residential area in the southwestern portion of the city of Taft. Improvements include one-to-one replacement of existing sewer lines, replacement and/or rehabilitation of manholes, reconnecting existing sewer service, and completion of associated appurtenances. Existing city sewer lines will be replaced with 10-inch High-Density Polyethylene (HDPE) sewer lines via pipe bursting. Access pits will be excavated 10 feet by 15 feet and 15 feet deep at the launch and exit of each section of the pipe replacement. Sixteen manholes in the project area will be either rehabilitated or replaced. The number of manholes that will be replaced will be determined during construction based on their existing condition. All manholes are 48 inches in diameter and 12 to 15 feet in depth from the ground surface. Vegetation removal will be required for sewer line improvements. All project activities and components, including construction staging areas, will occur 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 2.96 acres. Approximately 0.35 acres of the waterline improvements are within the FFRMS floodplain. No sewer line improvements or manholes are within the FFRMS floodplain or wetlands. The FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRM) Panel 48409C0410E (effective 11/4/2016) shows approximately 0.11 acres of the project are in Zone A, 0.10 acres are in Zone AE, 0.005 acres are in the Regulatory Floodway, and 0.14 acres are in Zone X (500-year floodplain). Based on mapped National Wetland Inventory data, the project will result in the loss of approximately 0.002 acres of Riverine wetlands. Improvements within the mapped wetland areas are limited to Retama Avenue. 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.

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 floodplains 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 the City of Taft at the following address on or before August 11, 2025: City of Taft, 230 Green Avenue, Taft, TX 78390 and (361) 528-3512, Attention: Leonard Vasquez, Mayor. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. at the same address as above. Comments may also be submitted via email at lvasquez@tafttx.gov.

Date: July 25, 2025