

Texas Water Development Board

PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST

BOARD DATE: July 7, 2021

PRESENTED BY: Claudia Corsetti

ACTION REQUESTED

Approve by resolution a request from the City of Wharton (Wharton County) for \$5,001,157 in financial assistance consisting of \$2,601,000 in financing and \$2,400,157 in grant from the Flood Infrastructure Fund for the planning, design, and construction of a drainage improvement project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve No Action

PROJECT NAME AND NUMBER

City of Wharton Flood Protection Plan, Project Number 40106.

BACKGROUND

Passed by the 86th Texas Legislature and approved by voters through a constitutional amendment, the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) was created to provide funding for flood mitigation projects. The purpose of the FIF, as outlined in Senate Bill 7 is to assist in financing drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects. FIF projects presented for consideration have been scored and ranked using prioritization criteria outlined in 31 Texas Administrative Code § 363.404 and further specified in the Flood Intended Use Plan. The prioritized list of projects was approved by the Board on September 17, 2020.

The City of Wharton (City) is located in Wharton County, approximately 60 miles southwest of Houston, Texas. The City is 8.28 square miles and has a population of about 8,637.

PROJECT NEED AND DESCRIPTION

Large areas of the City are located inside Colorado River's FEMA effective 100-year floodplain. Local businesses and residents in the vicinity of Stavena Addition Subdivision, Pecan Acres Subdivision, Ahldag Ditch, North Caney Creek, and the South Richmond Bridge crossing experience frequent flooding during 25-year storm events because the City's existing drainage system has limited capacity. The Colorado River overflows and feeds stormwater runoff to the headwaters of Peach Creek, Baughman Sough, and Caney Creek.

The proposed project will be done in two phases to address citywide flooding. Phase I includes a Master Drainage Study for the City limits and the Extraterritorial Jurisdiction. The study will verify parameters of the hydrologic model based on historical rain events. Findings from the study will also produce a detailed 1D/2D hydraulic model with an urban storm sewer analysis using 2018 LiDAR and updated National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Atlas 14 rainfall data to identify the level of service of the existing utilities. Phase II would implement previously designed solutions with considerations from the Master Drainage Study. The proposed drainage improvements include creek daylighting

COMMITMENT PERIOD: SIX (6) MONTHS TO EXPIRE JANUARY 31, 2022

(restoring previously covered waterways to natural conditions), channel modifications, and increased capacity of the storm drain system to reduce flood risk to 339 houses and businesses.

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Schedule Date
Closing	September 1, 2021
Engineering Feasibility Report Completion (End of Planning Phase)	February 28, 2023
Design Phase Completion	August 31, 2023
Start of Construction	October 2, 2023
Construction Completion	October 31, 2024

KEY ISSUES

The City's project is eligible under Category 2 of the 2020 Flood Intended Use Plan. This category of funding was designed for planning, acquisition, design, and construction activities to implement flood mitigation projects. Category 2 projects are eligible to receive up to 70 percent in grant funding. Recipients of financial assistance may either use their own available funds or borrow FIF funds at zero percent for any portion of the required local share not provided through FIF grant funds.

The City qualified for a \$2,400,157 grant under the FIF equal to 48 percent of the TWDB-eligible project cost of \$5,000,328. The City is also eligible to receiving a \$2,601,000 in FIF financing. In addition, the City received \$1,650,172 in grant funding from the General Land Office.

LEGAL

Special Conditions

- Executed Grant Agreement

Attachments:

1. Financial Review
2. Project Budget
3. Resolution (21-)
4. Location Map