

Texas Water Development Board

PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST

BOARD DATE: February 2, 2022

PRESENTED BY: Reem Zoun

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract amendment for a \$324,375 increase in grant funding from the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) for the Wharton County watershed flood protection planning project and authorizing the transfer of \$324,375 from the Flood Infrastructure Fund to the Research and Planning Fund as authorized by Texas Water Code Section 15.534(a)(8).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Approve No Action

PROJECT NAME

Waterhole Creek - Caney Creek Basin Flood Protection Study, Project 40006

BACKGROUND

Wharton County (County) received a commitment for \$427,500 in FIF grant funding from Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) on December 17, 2020. A related grant agreement was executed on June 24, 2021. Since that time, neighboring communities have approached the County to explore the possibility of expanding the current study area to include adjacent watersheds with interrelated flooding issues.

PROJECT NEED AND DESCRIPTION

The previously funded ongoing project includes tasks to reevaluate the entire Caney Creek HUC-10 watershed using more robust unsteady state and 2D hydraulic modeling (where needed) coupled with a refined hydrologic analysis utilizing National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Atlas 14 precipitation estimates with defined sub-watersheds. This includes a study of 134 stream miles of channel, topographic field survey of approximately 1 channel section per stream mile, and field survey of approximately 161 bridge/culvert crossings. All field survey data will be merged in with recent 2018 LiDAR data. This project will result in a new hydrologic and hydraulic model, an alternative analysis to identify structural and non-structural flood control projects, a benefit-cost analysis for each alternative evaluated, three public meetings, three stakeholder meetings, and a final engineering report documenting the analysis performed and recommendations made.

Wharton County is now requesting an additional funding amount of \$324,375 to expand the project study area to include the adjacent Linnville Bayou and East Matagorda

COMMITMENT PERIOD: SIX (6) MONTHS TO EXPIRE August 31, 2022; however, the Executive Administrator may, at his discretion, grant up to one extension for a maximum of three months.

Hydrologic Unit Code 10-digit (HUC-10) watersheds. This expanded project study area will add approximately 110 stream miles of channel and 43 bridge/culvert crossings to the analyses. All other aspects of the original study will also apply to the expanded project study area.

KEY ISSUES

This project is eligible under Category 1 of the 2020 Flood Intended Use Plan. This category of funding was designed to support studies that conduct planning of entire watersheds no smaller than HUC-10 to better inform the development of strategies using structural and nonstructural measures before a flood event, such as determining and describing problems from or related to flooding, identifying and planning solutions to flooding problems, and estimating the benefits and costs of these solutions. As a requirement of the FIF program, notices were sent out by the County to political subdivisions in the project area to provide notice of the project study and opportunities for regional participation in the study. The County received multiple responses to these notices and this request involves the inclusion of additional study areas to address that response. Including additional HUC-10 watersheds to the current study area will expand this project study area beyond the minimum requirement and is consistent with the spirit of this FIF category.

Category 1 projects are eligible to receive a maximum of 100 percent grant funds based on criteria outlined in the Flood Intended Use Plan. Recipients of financial assistance may either use their own funds or borrow FIF funds at zero percent interest for any portion of the remaining project cost. This project was eligible to receive 75 percent of total project in grant funds, and has executed a grant agreement requiring the County to provide a local match for the remaining 25 percent of the total project cost. This requested increase in project funding also reflects this 75/25 grant to local share funding ratio.

The County has submitted a revised financial assistance applications and is eligible to receive grant funding through the FIF for a portion of their total project cost. The County has pledged to contribute local funds to provide the remaining project costs and no federal funds has been identified as a source by the applicants. Table 1 provides a summary of funding sources for this study.

Table 1 Summary of additional FIF category 1 grant applications included in this project funding request

		Eligible grant (%)	Local Share (\$)	In-Kind Services (\$)	FIF grant (\$)	Total project cost (\$)
1	Previous Funding Commitment	75%	\$142,500	\$0	\$427,500	\$570,000
2	Additional Funding Requested	75%	\$108,125	\$0	\$324,375	\$432,500
	Total		\$250,625	\$0	\$751,875	\$1,002,500

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Schedule Date
Closing (Additional Funding Request)	May 30, 2022
Flood Planning Study Completion (End of Planning Phase)	June 20, 2023

The project recommended for approval meet all minimum requirements found in the 2020 Flood Intended Use Plan:

- (1) all activities are considered “flood control planning” as defined in Texas Water Code Section 15.405;
- (2) the application does not include the actual preparation of a Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Maps;
- (3) the funding request does not include redundant funding;
- (4) that the application demonstrates a sufficient level of cooperation among eligible political subdivisions and includes all of the eligible political subdivisions substantially affected by the Project;
- (5) the area to be served by the Project meets the requirements of the Flood Intended Use Plan related to the National Flood Insurance Program;
- (6) the project was developed using the best/most recent available data;

The selected project recommended for approval meet the statutory and rule requirements found in Texas Water Code Chapter 15 Subchapter F and 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 355, including:

- (1) that the financial assistance is necessary for the applicants to carry out adequate flood control planning; and
- (2) that the applicant has notified all required entities of the application.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

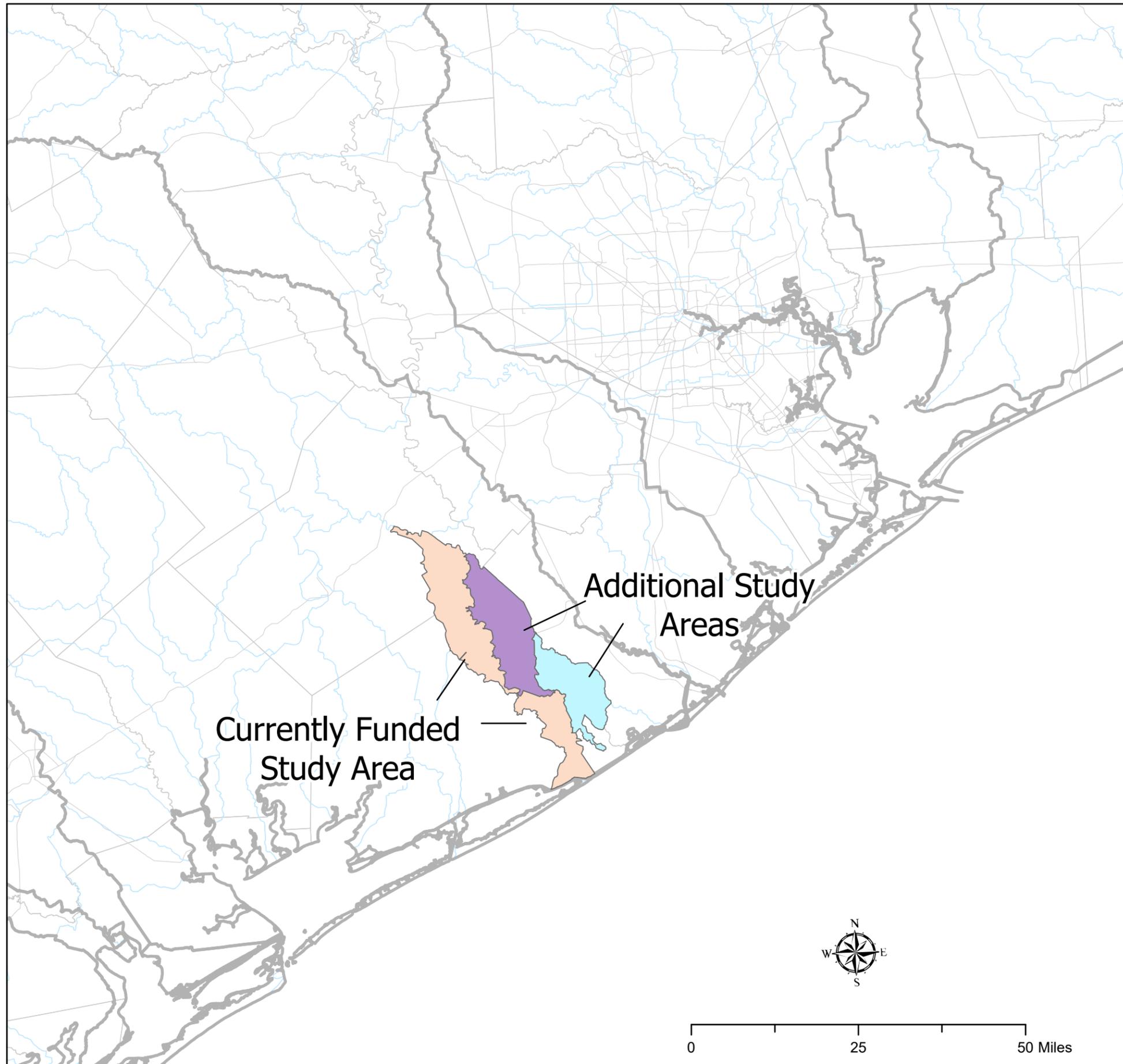
- Prior to closing, the County shall execute a Grant Agreement Amendment in a form and substance acceptable to the Executive Administrator;
- Prior to closing, the County must demonstrate its required local share of the additional \$108,125, which may be provided through in-kind services with prior approval by the Executive Administrator; and
- Prior to closing, when any portion of financial assistance is to be held in escrow or in trust, the County shall execute an escrow agreement or trust agreement, approved as to form and substance by the Executive Administrator, and shall submit that executed agreement to the TWDB.

Attachments:

- Project Area map
- Wharton County map

FIF Category 1 Project Areas

February 2, 2022 Board Item



Legend

- Flood Planning Region Boundaries
- HUC 10 Boundaries
- County Boundaries

FIF CAT 1 Boundaries - Wharton County

- Currently Funded Study Area
- Additional Study Area - East Matagorda Bay
- Additional Study Area - Linnville Bayou

