**NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF PROPOSED ACTION**

**LOCATED WITHIN THE FLOODPLAIN AND WETLANDS**

Newspaper: Newton County News

Publication Date: July 18, 2018

Address: Newton County

 110 Court Street

 Newton, TX 75966-3202

 409-379-5691

**Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed**

**Activity in a 100-Year Floodplain and Wetlands**

To: All interested Agencies, Groups and Individuals

This is to give notice that Newton County has determined that the following proposed action under the General Land Office’s (GLO) Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) program’s Contracts #18-384-000-B093, #18-385-000-B094, and #18-533-000-B277 is located in the 100-year floodplain and wetlands, and the County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action in the floodplain and the potential impacts on the floodplain and wetlands from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988 and/or 11990, in accordance with HUD regulations at 24 CFR 55.20 Subpart C Procedures for Making Determinations on Floodplain Management and Protection of Wetlands. In addition, the County will be pursuing other funding opportunities for the same purpose as they become available through 2023.

Newton County has been awarded 2015 and 2016 CDBG\_DR Funds to replenish housing stock due to a presidentially declared disaster. Newton County will provide assistance through a variety of housing options.. The proposed activity involves the rehabilitation of damaged homes, and the demolition and reconstruction of damaged homes, throughout flooded areas of Newton County, Texas.

The County will rehabilitate and reconstruct up to 300 homes. The County must ensure that, upon completion, the rehabilitated, repaired, or reconstructed portion of each property complies with local building codes, and that the entire structure complies with local health and safety codes and standards, and all applicable federal, state, and local building codes, Housing Quality Standards (HQS) and Green Building Standards. Assuming the maximum number of allowed houses were rehabilitated and/or reconstructed, approximately .01 acres of the 100-year floodplain and wetlands could potentially be impacted.

There are three primary purposes for this notice.  First, people who may be affected by activities in floodplains 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 floodplain and wetlands, alternative methods to serve the same project purpose, and methods to minimize and mitigate impacts. 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 Newton County at the following address on or before August 3, 2018: Newton County, 110 Court Street, Newton, TX 75966-3202 Attention: Paul Price, County Judge. A full description of the project may also be reviewed from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM at the address above.