

COMBINED PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS AND FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

Date of Publication: August 22, 2018
Responsible Entity: City of Edinburg
Address: 415 West University Drive, Suite F
Edinburg, Texas 78540
Phone Number: (956) 388-8206

These notices shall satisfy the above-cited three separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Edinburg.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about September 7, 2018 the City of Edinburg will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, as amended, to undertake a project known as **2018-2019 Annual Action Plan**, for the following activities.

CATEGORICALLY EXCLUDED (Subject to 58.5):

Rehabilitation/Reconstruction - Single Family Residential:

HOUSING REHABILITATION/RECONSTRUCTION PROGRAM \$325,000.00

This project involves providing grants or low interest loans to City of Edinburg eligible families for the reconstruction or rehabilitation of their homes. In accordance with §58.15, a tiered review process has been structured, whereby some environmental laws and authorities have been reviewed for the target area and other applicable laws and authorities will be completed when individual sites are selected.

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT (Subject to 58.6):

Public Facilities and Improvements:

LULL SUBDIVISION – STREET IMPROVEMENTS \$400,000.00

The project consist of the reconstruction of existing streets with an installation of a new 32 feet wide concrete curb and gutter pavement section. Pavement section consists of an 8" lime treated subgrade, 10" flexible base and 2" hot mix asphaltic pavement (HMAP). The existing roads are currently of 24 feet wide asphalt section with bar ditches and will be converted to meet City standards. The project is designed to enhance public safety by providing safe roadways and give residents fast and easy access to their homes. The project is located 3,000 feet West from US Business 281 and Monte Cristo Road Intersection.

FINAL NOTICE AND PUBLIC EXPLANATION OF A PROPOSED ACTIVITY IN A 100-YEAR FLOODPLAIN

This is to give notice that the City of Edinburg 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 Grant Program under Grant #B-18-MC-48-0503. The proposed project, Lull Subdivision, is located off Monte Cristo, one-half mile west of Closner Boulevard (Business 281) in Edinburg, Hidalgo County. The Lull Subdivision – Street Improvements project consists of the installation of a new 32 feet wide concrete curb and gutter pavement section. Pavement section consists of an 8" lime treated subgrade, 10" flexible base and 2" hot mix asphaltic pavement (HMAP). The existing roads are currently of 24 feet wide asphalt section with bar ditches and will be converted to meet City standards. The project is designed to enhance public safety by providing safe roadways and give residents fast and easy access to their homes. The total land area for the subdivision includes a total of 77.35 acres. The project site is entirely within the Special Flood Hazard Area, Zone AH, a 100-Year floodplain as identified by FEMA FIRM map number 480338-0015E, revised date June 6, 2000.

This City of Edinburg has considered the following alternatives and mitigation measures to be taken to minimize adverse impacts and to restore and preserve natural and beneficial values:

1. An option would be to relocate the families to a new subdivision that is not located in a floodplain. This would be very costly and would inconvenience the residents.
2. A second option would be to raise the existing homes above the floodplain. This would be economically unfeasible and time consuming.
3. The third option would be the “no action” alternative. This option would leave the residents of this low-income community with inadequate streets that are narrow and lack curb and gutter. Without new streets that include curb and gutter with drain inlets to allow proper drainage, flooding in this community would continue to occur during times of heavy rains and/or a hurricanes.

The city will assure that this plan, as described above, is executed and necessary language will be included in all agreements with participating parties. The city will also take an active role in monitoring the construction process to ensure that no unnecessary impacts occur nor needless risks are taken.

The alternatives listed above were considered, but not approved, due to the fact that these options were unfeasible. No mitigation measures were determined to exist. No natural and beneficial values will be affected.

The City of Edinburg 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.

There are three primary purposes for this notice. First, 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. Second, 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. Third, 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.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The City of Edinburg has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the Community Development/Grants Management Department located at 415 West University Drive, and may be examined or copied weekdays 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the projects may submit written comments to the City of Edinburg to the address as set forth above. Comments may also be submitted via email at mgarza@cityofedinburg.com. All comments received by September 6, 2018 will be considered by the City of Edinburg prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing.

Si no entiende esta noticia publica, favor de llamar al Departamento de Desarrollo Comunitario/Gestión de Subvenciones al (956) 388-8206.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The City of Edinburg certifies to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that Richard R. Molina in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of Edinburg to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Edinburg certification received by September 14, 2018 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following basis: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of Edinburg approved by HUD; (b) the City of Edinburg has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to Ms. Elva Garcia, Director CPD, San Antonio Field Office, HUD, H.F. Garcia Federal Bldg./U.S. Courthouse, 615 East Houston Street, Suite 347, San Antonio, Texas 78205. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period at (210) 475-6800.



Richard R. Molina, Mayor