



GREATER FORT BEND  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

October 19, 2020

USACE Galveston District  
ATTN: BBTRS  
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Re: Request for an Extension of the Comment Period to December 31, 2020 Buffalo Bayou Tributaries Resiliency Study Interim Report (Interim Report)

COL Vail and Ms. Willey:

The Greater Fort Bend Economic Development Council is a 30+ year organization focused on quality economic growth in Fort Bend County. Hurricane Harvey had a significant impact to the region and while Fort Bend County fared better than most, for those residents and businesses that were impacted, it was devastating. Nearly half the flood incidents in Fort Bend County during Hurricane Harvey were the direct result of a combination of insufficient storage capacity at Barker Reservoir or insufficient conveyance capacity of Buffalo Bayou tributaries.

Hence, the Interim Study may be one of the most important studies in Fort Bend County and Houston's history and certainly the most important since the 1940 USACE Flood Study. Flood resiliency plays an important part in our regional competitiveness and ability to attract and sustain growth and prosperity for our region.

For this reason, we respectfully request that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE") extend the public comment period on the Interim Report to December 31, 2020. This will provide a total of ninety (90) days for public comment on the Interim Report, released on October 2, 2020. We also request the release of all models and data that USACE used or relied on to analyze the different alternatives and form the conclusions in the Interim Report.

The Interim Report states that USACE released it to solicit public input to "help inform decision-makers as they weigh the benefits and costs of alternatives or the individual measures that comprise an alternative." Giving the public the requested 90 days and the supporting models and data will allow an informed public to provide USACE with more meaningful and accurate input and help us all arrive at a solution set that will make Houston stronger, more competitive and resilient.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey C. Wiley

President & CEO

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