

Early Notice and Public Review of a Proposed Activity in the 100-Year Floodplain

To: All interested Agencies, Groups, and Individuals

This is to give notice that Matagorda County (County) has determined that the following proposed action under the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Development (RD) Rural Housing Service (RHS) funding for a Point of Distribution (POD) project is located in the 100-Year Floodplain, and the County will be identifying and evaluating practicable alternatives to locating the action within the floodplain, and the potential impacts on the floodplain from the proposed action, as required by Executive Order 11988.

The Sargent Community Center is proposed for construction at 20305 FM 457 in the unincorporated community of Sargent, Matagorda County, Texas. The project site consists of approximately 4-acres of land owned by Matagorda County. The facility is intended to serve as a community gathering space and a designated point of distribution (POD) for emergency response activities, including hurricane disaster response and resilience operations.

According to the FEMA National Flood Hazard Layer (NFHL) FIRMette 48321C0500F, effective 1/15/2001, the project site is in Zone AE, Coastal Floodplain (100-Year Floodplain), totaling approximately 4.0-acres. The beneficial values of the floodplain will not be adversely affected as best management practices will be utilized during construction. Project design will incorporate required elevation for building in the floodplain.

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. Commenters are encouraged to offer alternative sites outside of the floodplain, 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 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.

Written comments must be received by the USDA at the following address on or before 5/20/26: Howard G. Willoughby, State Environmental Coordinator, Rural Development, US Department of Agriculture, 101 South Main Street, Suite 102, Temple, TX 76501, (254) 742-9715. A full description of the project may also be reviewed at Matagorda County Office, 2200 7th Street, Room 208, Bay City, TX, Attn: Crystal Morones from 8:00 am – 5:00 pm Monday – Friday, closed for lunch 12:00 to 1:00 pm. Comments may also be submitted via email at Howard.Willoughby@usda.gov.

Date: 5/5/26

