



# City of Wharton

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **City of Wharton and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Continue Work on Flood Reduction Project**

WHARTON—The City of Wharton and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) are making progress on the Lower Colorado River Basin Phase I, Texas Wharton Flood Risk Management Project, which includes building a system of levees, sumps, drainage features, and control structures to protect the city and its citizens from flooding.

USACE is close to completing the levee design plans for Phase I of the project, with a few remaining details still pending. Once the plans are final, they will be shared with the community. USACE plans to go out for contractors in November of 2020 to begin construction in early 2021 and anticipates completion of Phase 1 Construction in 2 years, but project timeline is subject to change.

The City and their consultant, HDR Engineering, Inc., are currently working on the appraisal stage of the project. All property owners and residents included in Phase I's Acquisitions have been in communication with HDR to learn about their rights and to begin planning for relocation. The families should be presented with offers for the property acquisitions in the next few months.

Property owners that are included in the Phase I Environmental Right of Entry part of the project have been mailed to those within a radius of the Levee footprint. Property owners receiving the letter regarding right of entry are not included in this first phase of the acquisition process but are close enough that soil samples may be needed from their property. This part of the process allows the Army Corps to take soil samples to test for antiquities and environmental hazards. The soil sample collection will not require utilizing heavy machinery and it does not mean that someone's property will be acquired.

The USACE has awarded the bid for the remaining phases of design and engineering which include Phase 2, 3, and Baughman's Slough. They are currently working out the contract for those services with the engineering firm. Phase 2 & 3 include the sections of business 59 to the Eastern City Limits and behind Buc-ees to an unknown location on FM 102 West of the City of Wharton. Baughman Slough will be its own Phase.

Citizen cooperation with the project team is important to make sure the project continues to move forward on schedule; however, it is important that individuals remain vigilant about securing their personal records and information. If a citizen is contacted by an individual or company that they are unfamiliar with, we ask that they contact the City of Wharton to verify their status as a team member. Inquiries can be sent to Krystal Hasselmeier, Assistant to the Community Development Director at the City of Wharton, at (979) 532-2491 x239 or via email at [khasselmeier@cityofwharton.com](mailto:khasselmeier@cityofwharton.com).

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