

**From:** Brett Bercher <[bkbercher@cebridge.net](mailto:bkbercher@cebridge.net)>

**Date:** January 25, 2019 at 8:48:22 AM CST

**To:** [swg\\_public\\_notice@usace.army.mil](mailto:swg_public_notice@usace.army.mil)

**Subject:** SWG-2016-00384

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Dear Sir:

**The proposed project is not a good idea for many reasons**, of which some are outlined below. The arguments against the proposed project are presented in a summary form with some background supporting information. The details of the arguments can be expounded at another time. The intent of this message is to prompt a public hearing. I am a Kingwood resident and licensed professional civil engineer specializing in hydrology and hydraulics. I believe the majority of residents in Kingwood do not approve of the proposed project.

1. Kingwood has experienced severe flooding from the San Jacinto River from recent storm events- Tax Day (April 16-17, 2016), Memorial Day (May 27-28, 2016), Hurricane Harvey (August 28-31, 2017). Thousands of homes and businesses within the 100- and 500-year floodplain (and outside the 500-year floodplain) were damaged.
2. The Harris County Flood Control District is currently administering a Federal Buyout Program along this portion of the San Jacinto River for repetitively flooded homes. An exhibit is provided below showing the buyout homes purchased to date (yellow, red, purple highlights). Some of the previous storm dates contributing to this repetitive flooding follow: October 18, 1994; November 14, 1998; September 13, 2008; April 18, 2016 (Tax Day flood); May 27, 2016 (Memorial Day flood); August 30, 2017 (Hurricane Harvey).
3. The San Jacinto River is currently undergoing a dredging program in this area to remove sedimentation delivered from upstream areas. Sedimentation of this portion of the San Jacinto River is common. This is the first instance that I am aware that the San Jacinto River (in this area) has been dredged. I have lived in Kingwood for the past 17 years. The removal of the sedimentation will help the San Jacinto River storage volume that effects the water surface elevations. However, I am concerned that without a maintenance program, the San Jacinto River will continue to experience sedimentation, lose storage volume, and consequently Kingwood would be vulnerable to flooding from lesser storms- as evidenced by the Tax Day and Memorial Day floods.
4. The San Jacinto River is known as Lake Houston just downstream of this proposed project. Lake Houston is a City of Houston owned facility constructed in 1953 for water supply (and not flood control). I believe the volume capacity in Lake Houston in 1953 was much more than today due to sedimentation over the years. Therefore, the floodwater storage is much less today, which puts homes along the San Jacinto River more at risk for flooding.
5. The Luce Bayou Interbasin Transfer (LBIT) project will transfer water from the Trinity River to Lake Houston. LBIT will provide the City of Houston more available water to sell to water authorities who plan to sell to entities in west Harris County. This increase in volume (from LBIT)

in Lake Houston could increase the risk of flooding in Kingwood (and the surrounding area) due to less available volume for floodwaters.

6. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) rainfall frequency analysis (released in September 2018) increases the 100-year rainfall event for this area from 13 to 18 inches. This increase in rainfall will require a redefinition of the existing Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs). The new FIRMs will show more area at risk.

Summary:

The proposed project will exacerbate flooding risks for homes and businesses based on the information presented above. I do not believe that an engineering analysis and design can, in good faith, support such a project as this, that will create more flood risk for the area.

Sincerely,  
(Signed)  
Brett K. Bercher, P.E.  
Kingwood, Tx 77345

