



## Harris County, Texas

1001 Preston St., Suite 934  
Houston, Texas 77002

### Commissioners Court

Request for Court Action

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**File #:** 21-6880

**Agenda Date:** 12/14/2021

**Agenda #:** 19.

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**Department:** County Administration

**Department Head/Elected Official:** David Berry, County Administrator

**Regular or Supplemental RCA:** Regular RCA

**Type of Request:** Financial Authorization

**Project ID (if applicable):** N/A

**Vendor/Entity Legal Name (if applicable):** N/A

**MWDBE Participation (if applicable):** N/A

**Request Summary (Agenda Caption):**

Request for approval to allocate \$20 million from the Flood Resilience Trust to advance engineering studies on high-priority flood control projects not included in the 2018 Bond Program.

**Background and Discussion:**

On October 26, Commissioners Court directed the Office of County Administration to work with relevant departments to propose a mechanism where high-priority projects not in the 2018 Bond Program can proceed before other, lower-scoring projects are fully completed. We propose the \$20 million from the Flood Resilience Trust be used to move forward the feasibility and preliminary engineering review (PER) for such high-priority projects.

The Flood Control District would work with the relevant precinct to come up with the list of funded projects, which could include either local drainage, channel or detention projects. These projects should, based on initial estimates, target a weighted Prioritization Framework score of at least 5.0, which is the cut-off for the top half of projects in the 2018 Bond Program.

The target allocation for the \$20 million would be 25% to each precinct. This should not be indicative of the future allocation of construction funds, which would be based on need and the Prioritization Framework.

**Expected Impact:**

This funding allocation would allow high-priority projects, including those identified in Flood Control District watershed studies, to proceed through the initial project-specific phases. As a result, these high-priority projects can proceed in parallel with the 2018 Bond Program.

The potential downside is the \$20 million would no longer be available to backstop missing partner funds for the 2018 Bond Program programs. However, this issue is unlikely to arrive for several years, or longer with the Flood Control Districts continual pursuit of additional partnerships, and would first affect lower-priority projects. This use of \$20 million is consistent with applying funds to the highest priorities and a “worst-first” approach to flood risk reduction.

**Alternative Options:**

Do not allocate the \$20 million from the Flood Resilience Trust  
 Seek alternative funding for relevant projects

**Alignment with Goal(s):**

- Justice and Safety
- Economic Opportunity
- Housing
- Public Health
- Transportation
- Flooding
- Environment
- Governance and Customer Service

**Prior Court Action (if any):**

| Date       | Agenda Item # | Action Taken                                     |
|------------|---------------|--|
| 08/27/2019 | 2.g           | Approval of Bond Prioritization Framework        |
| 06/29/2021 | 191           | Approval of Flood Resilience Trust               |
| 10/26/2021 | 136           | Motion to address funding high priority projects |

**Location:**

Address (if applicable): N/A

Precinct(s): Countywide

| Fiscal and Personnel Summary   |          |                    |                     |
|--|----------|--------------------|---------------------|
| Service Name   |          |                    |                     |
|  | FY 21-22 | FY 22              | Next 3 FYs          |
| <b>Incremental Expenditures (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)</b> |          |                    |                     |
| Labor Expenditures   | \$       | \$                 | \$                  |
| Non-Labor Expenditures   | \$       | \$5,000,000        | \$15,000,000        |
| <b>Total Incremental Expenditures</b>  | \$       | <b>\$5,000,000</b> | <b>\$15,000,000</b> |
| <b>Funding Sources (do NOT write values in thousands or millions)</b>          |          |                    |                     |
| Existing Budget  |          |                    |                     |
| Other  | \$       | \$5,000,000        | \$15,000,000        |
| Choose an item.  | \$       | \$                 | \$                  |
| Choose an item.  | \$       | \$                 | \$                  |

|   |    |             |              |
|---|----|-------------|--------------|
| Total Current Budget  | \$ | \$5,000,000 | \$15,000,000 |
| <b>Additional Budget Requested</b>                              |    |             |              |
| Choose an item.   | \$ | \$          | \$           |
| Choose an item.   | \$ | \$          | \$           |
| Choose an item.   | \$ | \$          | \$           |
| Total Additional Budget Requested                               | \$ | \$          | \$           |
| <b>Total Funding Sources</b>                                    | \$ | \$          | \$           |
| <b>Personnel</b> (Fill out section only if requesting new PCNs) |    |             |              |
| Current Position Count for Service                              | -  | -           | -            |
| Additional Positions Requested                                  | -  | -           | -            |
| <b>Total Personnel</b>  | -  | -           | -            |

**Anticipated Implementation Date:** Immediately

**Emergency/Disaster Recovery Note:** Not an emergency, disaster, or COVID-19 related item

**Contact(s) name, title, department:** David Berry, County Administrator

**Attachments** (if applicable):