

9/21/22

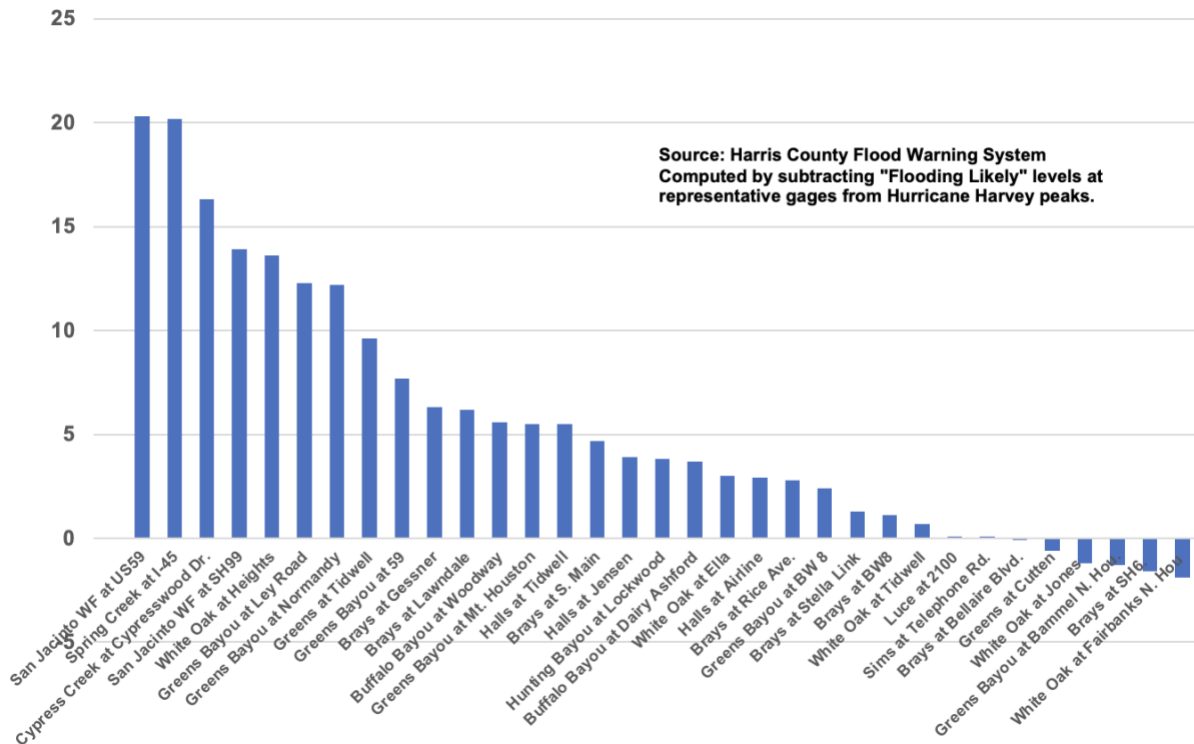
To: Scott Elmer, Harris County Flood Control  
From: Kings Forest Community Association, Kingwood

**Re: Phase 2/Phase 3 Tunnel Study Comment on Cypress Creek Outfall Location**

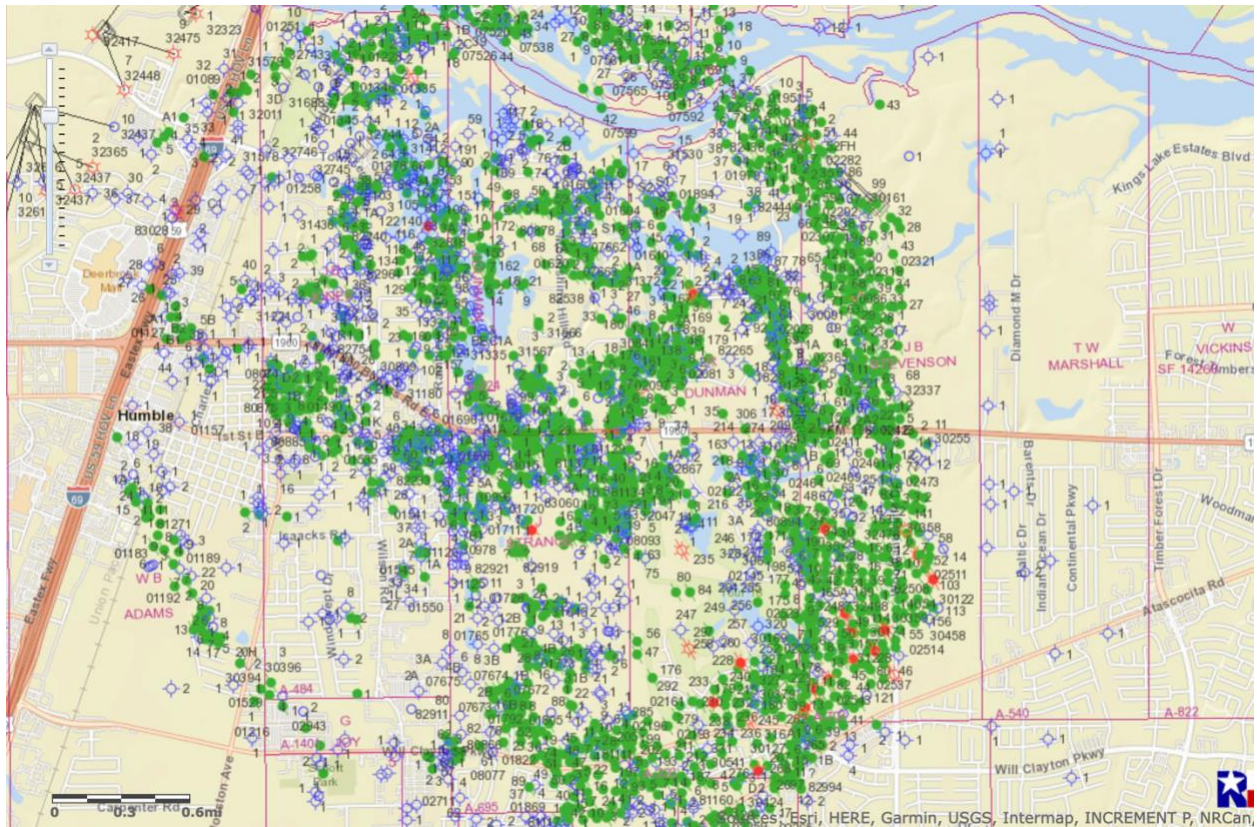
Harris County Flood Control District has a long-held policy of not supporting flood-mitigation projects for one area that would make flooding worse in a second area.

After reviewing the results of your Phase 2 Tunnel Study, we fear that the alignment of the Cypress Creek Tunnel could make flooding worse in the Humble-Kingwood area. The tunnel would add stormwater to Lake Houston at a location that experienced the highest flooding in northern Harris County (see below) and had some of the heaviest damage as a result.

## Feet Above Flood Stage in Harvey



Additionally, this area contains hundreds of active and abandoned oil and gas wells around and over the Humble salt dome. The map below, from the Railroad Commission of Texas, shows their locations and density. The proposed Cypress Creek Tunnel would have to snake its way through these.



Screen capture shows active and abandoned wells near outfall of proposed Cypress Creek Tunnel.  
 Green dots represent active wells. Empty dots represent abandoned wells.  
 Source: Railroad Commission of Texas.

Harvey heavily damaged the oilfield infrastructure in our area. See the representative images below.



*Damage to wells and tanks caused by Harvey that impaired water quality in the West Fork and Lake Houston. All from Forest Cove area within 500 feet of West Fork.*

It took the Railroad Commission 4.5 years to clean up this mess after the operator declared bankruptcy.

Your proposed Cypress Creek tunnel would outfall in the headwaters of Lake Houston, the source of drinking water for two million people. While we are sensitive to the flooding issues along Cypress Creek, we believe that letting a Cypress Creek flood tunnel outfall at this location is not wise. It could lead to further damage and potential environmental/health dangers.

In addition to the issues cited above, scouring destroyed the southbound portion of the I-69/West Fork bridge and caused massive traffic delays for 11 months. Repairs cost TxDOT \$20 million.



Looking south toward Humble at I-69/West Fork Bridge repairs after Harvey

### **Our Request: No Adverse Impact**

Please ensure that the proposed Cypress Creek tunnel does not discharge in a *manner, or at a rate or location* that increases flood risk to the Humble/Kingwood area or the water quality in Lake Houston.

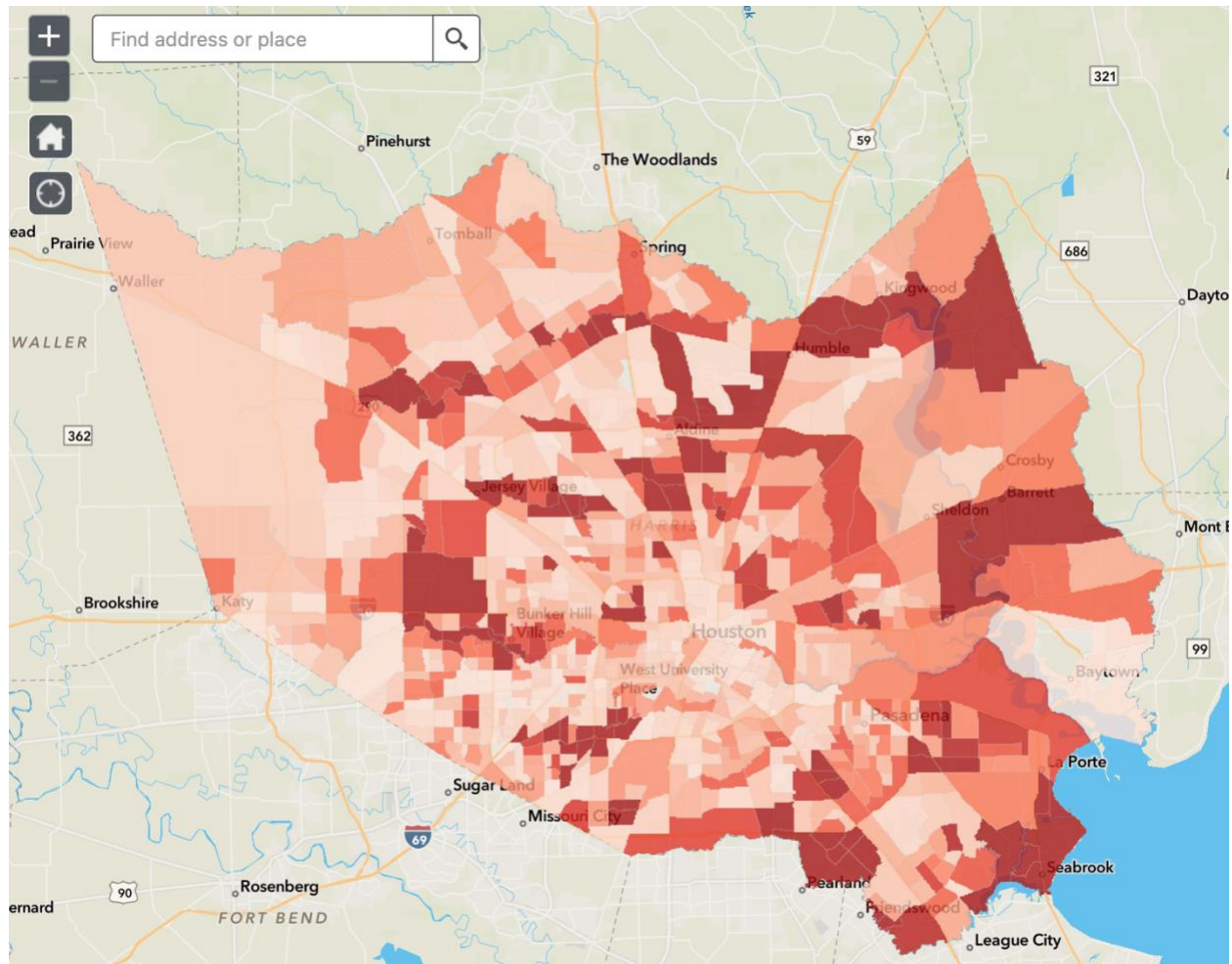
We also request that your “no adverse impact” evaluation reflect *actual, current* conditions:

- Before your Phase 3 study and again...
- Before construction, if any.

Please DON'T base the evaluation on *planned* mitigation measures, which might not happen for political reasons.

Also, please DON'T base the evaluation on outdated conveyance data for the San Jacinto West Fork. Montgomery County is the second-fastest growing county in the region. It allows new subdivisions to use hydrologic timing surveys to avoid building floodwater detention basins. In 2019, Harris County Engineering and Flood Control proposed eliminating that practice, but MoCo Commissioners refused. As a result, the Humble/Kingwood area faces constantly

increasing flood risk from thousands of upstream acres being developed without sufficient mitigation.



[Historical flood loss map of Harris County since 1978. Source: MAAPnext.](#)

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Because of this, we are among the most heavily flood-damaged areas in the county. (See below.)

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*Source: MAAPnext. Heat map showing cumulative damage since 1977.*

Thank you for considering these comments as you plan your important study.

Submitted by Bob Rehak for the Kings Forest Community Association Board of Directors:

- Bill Koerner, President
- Bob Rehak, Vice President
- Cyndy Brown
- Theunis Myburg
- Jonathan Millican