



City of Houston

DAVE MARTIN

Mayor Pro Tem & District E Council Member

March 28, 2023

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

*RE: LAKE HOUSTON SPILLWAY DAM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT*

Dear Governor Abbott:

It has been a busy past five years since you sat in the Kingwood Community Center and looked myself along with various community representatives in the eye and told us poignantly to "**FIX IT**". You and I flew in a helicopter over the San Jacinto River and Lake Houston days after Hurricane Harvey and passionately mandated all parties to work together and come up with a solution to stop the havoc unleashed on our communities by Hurricane Harvey and we are there, we have the solution.

This is our final attempt to get the most impactful change implemented and we need your support to accomplish it. I am pleading with you, to please assist your constituents in fortifying Lake Houston in a way to reduce the threat of regional flooding by supporting our Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project. The Kingwood and Lake Houston communities always vote for you and always support you in your elections. Today, we are asking YOU to support our community and local economy through providing funding for this essential flood control infrastructure project or this community along with its support will be lost forever in the next major flood.

The Lake Houston area, particularly Kingwood, has been significantly impacted by flooding and drainage-related challenges. Hurricane Harvey flooded more than 16,000 homes and businesses in the area and shed light on the condition of drainage channels, storm sewers, as well as decreased capacity of Lake Houston and the San Jacinto River. The buildup of storm related silt and sediment deposits emphasize the need for a coordinated approach to flood risk reduction in Kingwood. We have worked to address the sediment while we make our way through securing funding for the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project, removing over *4 million cubic yards of sediment to date*.

The community desperately needs the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project to alleviate the long-lasting consequences of flooding and build towards resilience, restoring residents' confidence in their community. The Lake Houston Spillway Dam was constructed prior to 1960, designed to hold water into Lake Houston providing reliable drinking water to over 6 million customers. The existing spillway was never designed to serve as a flood control device but in the years since Harvey has had to shift its purpose in the community to assist in times of severe inclement weather, however these measures have been temporary.

Governor, you asked Lake Houston regional leaders to come up with a permanent solution to our flooding problem and the **Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project is the answer**. The City of Houston has secured \$48 million dollars from the federal government in addition to \$30 million dollars in local funds and looks to the state to provide an additional \$150 million dollars towards the design and construction of new flood control gates to be added on the east embankment of the existing Lake Houston Spillway Dam. **This project currently is part of Senate Bill 1 Article 11 and desperately needs your attention.** I look forward to working with your office to secure funding for this Community Project. Thank you for your consideration of this critical lifesaving request.

Sincerely,

Dave Martin

City of Houston Mayor Pro Tem  
Council Member, District E