



City of Houston

DAVE MARTIN

Mayor Pro Tem & District E Council Member

The Honorable Dade Phelan
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, Texas 78768

March 29, 2023

RE: LAKE HOUSTON SPILLWAY DAM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

Speaker Phelan:

It has been a busy past five years since Hurricane Harvey devastated the Kingwood, Humble, Lake Houston, New Caney, Porter, Huffman, and Crosby communities. Since then, the regional government agencies and residents have been working together to answer Governor Abbott's call for us to **"FIX IT"**. We are there, we have the solution, and the solution is to add flood control infrastructure known as the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project, which is currently attached to the State's Article 11.

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**.

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 our constituents in fortifying Lake Houston in a way to reduce the threat of regional flooding through **supporting the Lake Houston Spillway Dam Improvement Project**. By supporting this project, you are insuring the continued existence of our community and local economy. Without this essential flood control infrastructure project this community will be lost forever in the next major flood, they simply are depleted of resources to face another flooding event, when we have the solution and just need additional funding.

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.

The State's leadership 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