



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

June 8, 2026

Lina Hidalgo
Harris County Judge
1001 Preston, Suite 911
Houston, TX 77002

Dear Judge Hidalgo:

Harris County needs shovels, not scapegoats. We have grave concerns about Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) not meeting its benchmarks partially due to the arbitrary procedures imposed by the Harris County Commissioners Court (Court). It is our opinion that regardless of who is leading HCFCD, if the Court continues business as usual, compelling HCFCD to repeatedly address the Court for every minor change, there is likely zero chance of successfully meeting the grant timeline established by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Immediately after taking office in 2023, I kept my promise to the residents of Harris County to keep the \$322 million of disaster recovery funds local. I was assured by county leaders that the projects identified were “shovel ready” and that you had the capacity, experience, and understanding of federal regulations and processes to meet the federal deadline.

One-thousand one-hundred eighty-two days later, there are still too few shovels. Despite all my efforts to expedite the “shovel ready” projects – providing a dedicated team responsible for federal grant guidance and technical support, who have conducted more than 750 meetings, calls, and onsite visits with county staff – the county’s unnecessary systematic delays will very likely result in a failure to complete these much-needed projects on time, despite your assurances.

The Texas General Land Office (GLO) has made tremendous investments to protect Harris County families, homes, and businesses from future flooding – more than \$1 billion has been invested for infrastructure and mitigation projects. The GLO is responsible for following the rules and regulations mandated by HUD and from the beginning, we have maintained that the February 28, 2027, deadline is firm. As you know, you must use the funds or lose them. We have made every attempt to revise benchmarks to provide more time for your programs and projects to achieve success, including spending more than \$5 million of our own grant funding to provide staff support to Harris County to ensure these projects are completed on time in accordance with the federal deadline, yet there are still too few shovels in the ground.

My advice is simple: get out of the way, work with the Commissioner's Court and HCFCD to eliminate unnecessary delays, expedite processes, and deliver results for the citizens of Harris County. You owe it to your constituents to put personalities aside and deliver. The GLO will continue to provide support, offer solutions, and encourage all stakeholders to remain focused on the finish line. We have worked with HCFCD to determine a new path forward to expedite expenditures in order to meet the required disaster recovery grant deadlines.

It's time to put aside disagreements with executive leadership at HCFCD or personal differences in management and finish the job. Shovels, not scapegoats.

For Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Buckingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.
Commissioner, Texas General Land Office

Enclosures

1,182 Days Since Funding Announcement

Texas General Land Office
Commissioner Dawn Buckingham, M.D.



Arbor Oaks



Dinner Creek



Kluge



East TC Jester



Brookglen



Lauder



Greens Bayou



Jackson Bayou



Red Bluff



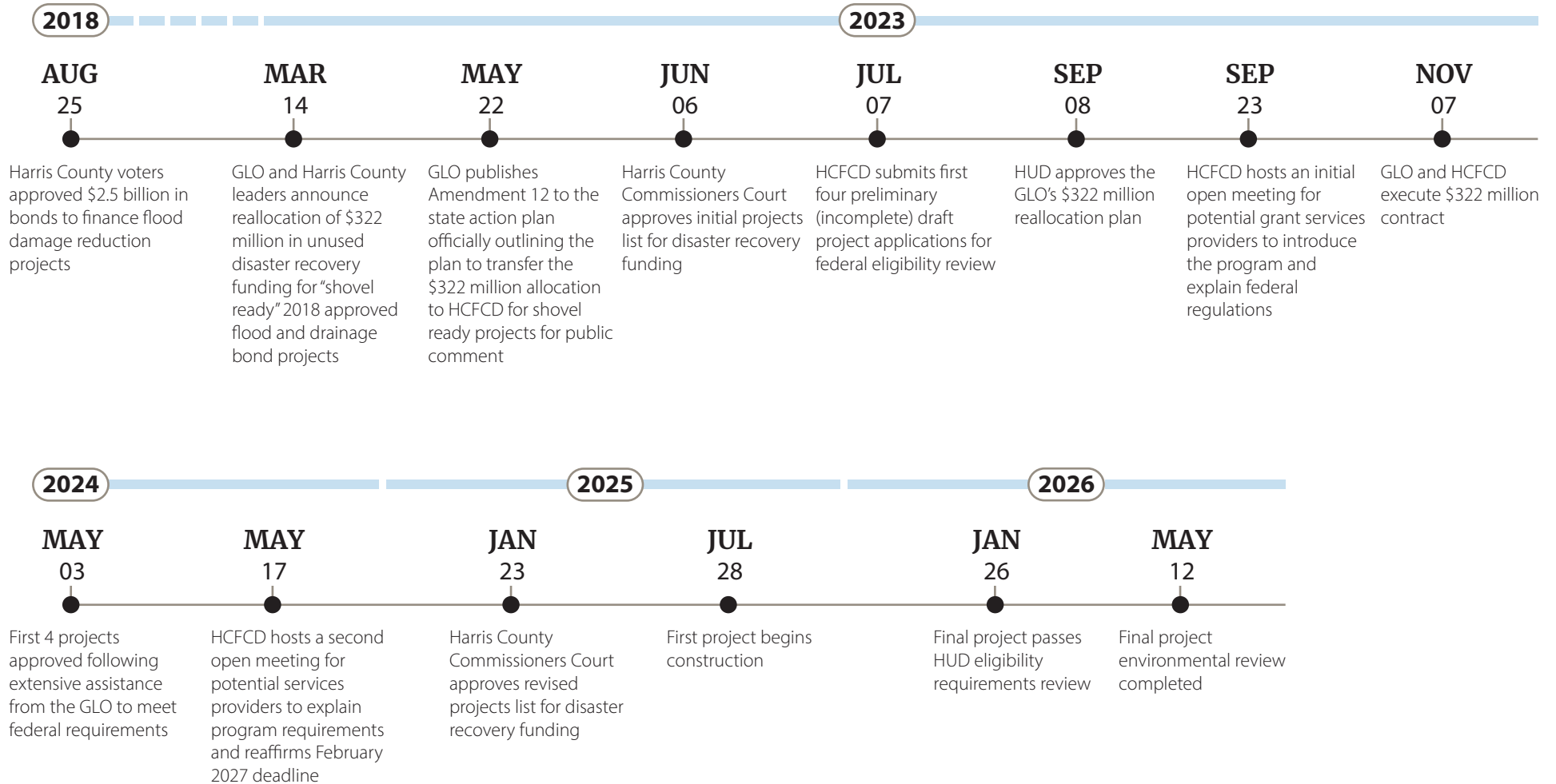
Keegans Bayou



Isom



\$322 Million In Disaster Recovery Funding For The Shovel Ready Bond Projects:







Despite the extensive support provided by the GLO, Harris County:


 Missed deadlines

 Reprioritized projects repeatedly

 Submitted incomplete or inaccurate documentation that failed to adhere to federal grant regulations

 Failed to respond to GLO requests regarding federal grant processes

 Experienced significant employee turnover and loss of experienced staff capacity

 Failed to achieve timely engineering design, environmental clearance, procurement, vendor contracting, and construction start

