

L.M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr.
County Judge



Lacey Powell
Chief of Staff

Brazoria County

March 11, 2024

Secretary Marcia L. Fudge
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street, S.W.,
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Fudge:

I write to you today urging your approval of the extension to the agreement with the Texas General Land Office (GLO) for the contract for Hurricane Harvey Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding. Hurricane Harvey was an extremely devastating storm to the state of Texas and specifically to Brazoria County and its residents. As a HUD identified most impacted county, Brazoria County was allocated more than \$10.9 million in CDBG-DR funding to address the critical recovery needs in the county. Approval of GLO's requested contract extension would ensure that CDBG-DR Harvey funding made available to Brazoria County residents are utilized to meet those critical needs.

As noted above, Brazoria County is a recipient of federal funding through the CDBG-DR program as a result of the impact of Hurricane Harvey to our county and residents in 2017. We have worked diligently with the guidance of the GLO to utilize more than \$10.9 million awarded to Brazoria County to complete critical improvements to address damage and mitigate flooding in the county. Despite these efforts and due to unavoidable delays, the county is now faced with returning more than \$7 million of this funding due to GLO's contract end date with HUD currently scheduled to expire in April 2025. Brazoria County has two pending projects that are subject to cancellation if the extension is not granted. Due to this pending timeline and to avoid any recapture, we have already taken steps to eliminate one project and significantly reduce the scope of another project to ensure we can realize some of the benefit of this funding. However, the county and its residents deserve full benefit that these funds can deliver and thus we urgently appeal to you to help us achieve this goal by approving GLO's contract extension for these funds which will allow these projects to proceed as initially planned.

We appreciate your attention to this matter and thank you in advance for your consideration of our appeal. If you have any questions, please contact me at 979-864-1200.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "L.M. Sebesta, Jr.", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

L.M. "Matt" Sebesta, Jr.
County Judge
Brazoria County, Texas
979-864-1200

matts@brazoriacountytx.gov