



CITY OF RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS

(817) 299-1800 • Fax (817) 299-1803 • 3200 DIANA DRIVE • RICHLAND HILLS, TEXAS • 76118
Website: www.richlandhills.com

March 16, 2009

The Honorable Michael C. Burgess
Representative, Texas District 26
1224 Longworth House Office Building
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: Request for Federal Funding for a Flood Control Project for Richland Hills, TX

Dear Representative Burgess:

First we want to thank your courteous and very helpful staff who spent a considerable amount of time with us late last year discussing the FY 2009 Richland Hills funding request which we submitted in December 2008. In addition, Mr. Matthew Johnson has provided us with the FY 2010 form that we have just finished.

Enclosed is the completed Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Request (General Questionnaire) per our earlier discussions with your staff and with the North Central Texas Council of Governments. We have also coordinated with the Fort Worth District Corps of Engineers since they have been involved in the ongoing Upper Trinity River Feasibility Study and Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study, which are referenced in our application.

We would appreciate your consideration of this formal request for federal cost-share funding to address the critical flooding issues that impact Richland Hills. As demonstrated in our application, there are serious flood hazards affecting the city and opportunities to determine and quantify economical and environmentally sound alternatives to solve the problems. As a city, we are committed to providing cost sharing and in-kind services to supplement federal and state funding in this endeavor. We have also demonstrated that this project would have far reaching and positive economic and social well-being benefits to District 26, the north Texas region, and the nation



Thank you so much for the opportunity to submit this request. We look forward to your assistance and guidance in pursuing the objectives we have outlined.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David L. Ragan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "R".

David L. Ragan
Mayor, City of Richland Hills, TX
Phone: 817-299-1800

Encl

C: James W. Quin, City Manager

FISCAL YEAR 2010 APPROPRIATIONS REQUESTS

GENERAL QUESTIONNAIRE - REP. Michael Burgess (TX-26)

Must be completed and submitted NO LATER than COB February 27, 2009

Please submit completed questionnaire to matt.johnson@mail.house.gov

PLEASE NOTE: ALL REQUESTS MUST INCLUDE A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST ON OFFICIAL LETTERHEAD EXPLAINING THE PROJECT. THIS QUESTIONNAIRE SHOULD ACCOMPANY, NOT REPLACE, A FORMAL LETTER OF REQUEST AND ANY OTHER QUESTIONNAIRE

I. PROJECT BACKGROUND & PURPOSE

1. Please provide a formal name for this project:

Richland Hills, TX Flood Control Project – Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study, A Project Management Plan of the **Upper Trinity River Feasibility Study** (Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers with North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) and Nine-City Coalition as Local Sponsors). The NCTCOG has been the local sponsor coordinator and facilitator

2. Please describe the project and its purpose:

Description: To review the numerous flooding, drainage, erosion and sedimentation problems that exist within the City of Richland Hills, TX, and formulate specific alternatives to address and remedy these and related water-resources problems. A Draft Interim Information Paper on the Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study was published by the Corps of Engineers in August 2007, describing the initial findings and baseline conditions. In that report two specific Richland Hills areas of interest or problems were identified: (1) the lower end of the Tributaries BFC-5, BFC-5A and BFC-5B, near the sump and **federal levee**; and (2) Big Fossil Creek between SH 121 (Airport Freeway) and the West Fork of the Trinity River.

The requested Richland Hills' project would be prepared within the context of the referenced **Corps of Engineers/NCTCOG Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study and Upper Trinity River Feasibility Study**, to include the impacts from upstream watershed development and erosion. Or, if necessary, it could be pursued under a new authorization from Congress, specifically for Richland Hills.

Purpose: to **reduce the flooding potential for the 361 properties** (119 properties are covered with flood insurance) in the City of Richland Hills that are within the FEMA-designated 100-year floodplain; reduce sedimentation, enhance the environment and potential recreational benefits to the area, and reduce potential loss of life from floods. As recently as 2007, major floods paralyzed the city with State Highway 10 (Baker Boulevard) being closed so that portions of Richland Hills were separated. Attached Exhibit 1 is a map of Richland Hills with floodplains and proposed improvements currently under consideration by the city. It shows Fossil Creek and the levee/sump area, but no new proposed Corps' improvements.

3. Please outline the project plan, including the finance plan:

The Project Plan (under current Congressional authorization, i.e. Big Fossil Creek/Upper Trinity):

- Provide the Corps of Engineers/NCTCOG and nine (9) participating cities with FY 2010 Funding to continue the ongoing studies including specific examination of flood control alternatives for the City of Richland Hills.
- Coordinate the current City of Richland Hills Preliminary Design Analysis Project with this Corps' study to insure compatible flood control alternatives and potential federal funding for construction of flood control improvements. In essence, the City's expenditures and engineering studies will be incorporated into the Corps' program and study, to expedite the feasibility study and identify viable projects that

- could be constructed with cost-sharing, federal and local dollars.
- Examine the following Specific Issues and Problems:
 - Levee, Sump and Pump Station – This levee, sump area and pump station are 42 years old, designed and constructed by the Corps of Engineers under 1960's criteria, and should be reviewed for adequacy, level of flood protection, and upgrade. This area was identified in the Draft July 2007 Interim Information Paper as an area of interest or problems.
 - Big Fossil Creek Channel – should be reviewed for "Stream Restoration", revised maintenance agreements, and impacts of upstream sediment. Assess the problems and solutions for clearing/dredging of the creek from State Highway 121(Airport Freeway) downstream to Trinity River. Consider recreational benefits of stream restoration and possible connections to hike and bike trails along Trinity River.
 - Tributaries of Big Fossil Creek – Streams BFC-5, BFC-5A and BFC-5B, which drain the majority of the city, create significant and regular disastrous flooding of homes. These flooding problems need to be solved to reduce personal hardships, loss of property, high costs to the city, and potential loss of life. Note that most of the 361 flood-prone parcels are along the tributaries and near the levee sump.
 - Potential Diversion Project – Examine the possibility of diverting flood waters from the streams into Big Fossil Creek, along a Baker Boulevard (State Highway 10) route, to reduce flooding of homes. This significant alternative has the potential to reduce a large amount of flooding in the area south of State Highway 10.
 - Past Flooding – There have been 94 paid NFIP flood insurance claims totaling \$ 1,068,189.45 in the City of Richland Hills since 1979. This does not include the costs to the city for cleanup and emergency actions, nor the number of homes who do not have flood insurance.
- Quantify the potential alternatives, including estimates of probable cost, prioritize, determine economic feasibility, and outline specific plan of improvements to reduce or eliminate the flood hazards.
- Coordinate with the Corps of Engineers to determine the most appropriate project(s) that are compatible with federal guidelines (economic, environmental, practical, etc.) and seek appropriate cost-sharing between local, state and federal sources.
- Proceed with appropriate agreements and contracts to facilitate the needed improvements.

The Finance Plan

- Utilize FY 10 Federal funding to supplement local cost share to continue feasibility studies, including Richland Hills initiatives.
- Complete feasibility studies and related City of Richland Hills' Preliminary Design Analysis in 2009-2010. Prepare master plan of improvements with budget for construction plans and specifications, environmental and economic analysis and permits, and related implementation costs.
- Seek future FY funding for Corps' design and construction phases for the implementation plans for FY 2011 and beyond. Coordinate a phased project schedule of funding for final engineering design and construction phases.
- Richland Hills would provide their local sponsorship cost-sharing portion from the funding available from the city's Storm Water Utility (generates significant annual funding for drainage and flood control projects)
- The City would also seek additional sources of construction funding, such as the Texas Water Development Board.
- Schedule and coordinate federal budget items with city budget, as needed.

II. BENEFIT TO THE 26th DISTRICT AND/OR THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

1. Please explain how this project will improve life, the economy or the general welfare of the 26th District and/or the country at-large. Please be specific (i.e., outline number of jobs created, savings to economy or taxpayers, improve national security):

This project will provide the following:

- Savings to the Local, State and National Economy and Taxpayers- Reduce cost of future flood damages for the 361 homes and business within the cities' FEMA floodplains, including the 119 properties with

annual flood insurance premiums and the documented 13 Repetitive Losses Properties (FEMA-designation for homes which has received multiple floods and flood insurance claims).

- Reduce the need for the \$16,838,200 in flood insurance coverage for the National Flood Insurance Program policies in the city of Richland Hills. Reduce future flood insurance claims from the current total of \$1,068,190 of claims paid.
- Creation of local economic benefits including creation of numerous jobs from the construction projects. This includes planning, permitting, surveying, construction, and operation and maintenance of completed facilities, all of which require significant personnel of all social and economic levels. Depending upon the selected alternative(s) which range from \$8.1 million to \$25.2 million, the estimated job creation would be in the range of 137 to 427 jobs, based on gross national averages of job creation from Corps' construction projects (interpolated 2008 data from Associated General Contractors of America).
- Improvement of Life/Security – Significantly reduce or eliminate the flooding of homes and roadways in the City of Richland Hills and reduce or eliminate the constant fear of flooding and potential loss of life from flood hazards in the city.
- Reduction in annual operation and maintenance costs of outdated flood control facilities.
- Mitigation efforts such as design and construction of drainage improvements and flood protection facilities to protect flood prone properties within the watershed are identified as mitigation actions in the Regional North Central Texas Council of Governments Mitigation Action Plan that includes the City of Richland Hills.
- Note: these economic benefits are specifically from Richland Hills, other benefits would accrue to other cities within the Big Fossil Creek watershed, as well as the Dallas-Fort Worth in general.

2. Please explain why this project should be considered a priority:

- This is a high profile and high priority project for the citizens of Richland Hills since **the impact of repeated flooding greatly affects the City's annual budget as well as personal and business losses**. The recent adoption of a Storm Water Utility, a monthly bill to each citizen and business to help fund drainage and flood control projects, indicates the urgency and priority of this project.
- If the continued funding for the ongoing Corps' and NCTCOG studies is stopped, the possibility of future implementation of flood damage reduction projects will be negated or delayed for an indefinite time. It is a priority not only for the city of Richland Hills, but for the other eight communities that have participated in the ongoing feasibility study.
- Richland Hills and other communities need this process to determine solutions to problems and implement actual constructed projects to reduce flood hazards.

III. REQUEST

1. Amount of money you are requesting:

\$500,000 for FY 10 funding of the Corps' current **authorized Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study** to continue that project, with additional interest and addressing specific water resources problems in Richland Hills.

2. Agency from which you are requesting funds:

Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District, Southwestern Division

3. Account from which you are requesting funds:

Corps' Civil Works, General Investigations Program

IV. FUNDING HISTORY

1. What is the total project cost and can you provide a federal-state/local-other funding breakdown?

- The original cost for the Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study was a projected \$1.5 Million study. The Texas Water Development Board provided \$375,000 (1/4 of total projected cost) and the local governments (including Richland Hills) contributed \$375,000 (1/4 of cost) in the form of cash and "in-kind"

services. The Corps of Engineers has committed \$750,000 to the project.

- The potential future construction costs for the preliminary alternatives in the city of Richland Hills would vary from: \$8,100,000 (Baker Blvd. Bypass) to \$17,000,000 (8 major flood control alternatives, excluding the Baker Blvd. Bypass). These are preliminary estimates using 2008 dollars.
 - Other than the Richland Hills project mentioned above, there are no other available estimates of future construction projects within the Big Fossil Creek watershed at this time.
-

2. Has the project ever received federal funds before? If so, please elaborate.

- Since the **Richland Hills, TX Flood Control Project** has not been identified as a specific or separate authorized project; it has not received separate, previous federal funding.
- The Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study, A Project Management Plan of the Upper Trinity River Feasibility Study (UTRFS), was authorized under the United States Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works Resolution dated April 22, 1988. Funding for the UTRFS has been continuous since 1990. The Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study was initiated in 1999 and has received annual funding. It was a projected \$1.5 Million study. The Corps has committed the aforementioned \$750, 000 as a 50% share.

3. Has the project received state, local or private funds before? If so, please elaborate.

- When the Corps' Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study was started in 1999 a cost-sharing plan was developed by the NCTCOG for each of the nine communities and the Texas Water Development Board. The TWDB has provided 25% state funding and the local governments has provided 25% local share funding, to match the 50% federal funding.
- The Richland Hills project was not funded previously, as stated above. However, the city has recently (November 2008) committed \$190,000 in study funding for a preliminary design analysis of flood control alternatives that could be incorporated into the Corps' study.

4. Can you demonstrate a commitment for future funds from state, local, or private sectors? If so, please elaborate to the extent possible.

- As mentioned above, at this time, the City of Richland Hills, TX has committed \$190,000 toward the feasibility study, in the form of a preliminary design analysis study of flooding problems along the Big Fossil Creek tributaries that cross the city, as a local participation cost share.
 - In addition, the city also has access to funds being generated by its newly enacted Storm Water Utility which can be used, as needed, for additional future cost sharing.
 - Other potential sources of funding include the other eight communities and the TWDB. They have continued to support the study throughout the 1999-2008 time frame.
-

5. How do you intend to spend federal funds for this project (operating, construction, studies, equipment purchase, salaries, other)?

- The initial funding would be for continuation of feasibility planning studies to identify specific flood control alternatives, assess the economic and environmental viability, prioritize projects, and provide recommendations to congress for future design and construction phases of selected project(s).
- Future funding would be for the detailed design and construction phases, and would be requested in future fiscal years, as appropriate.

6. Does the project request stem from a currently-funded federal program (i.e., an already existing congressional authorization)? If so, please explain and be as specific as possible.

As stated above: The specific Richland Hills Project has not been separately authorized. However, the Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study is a Project Management Plan of the Upper Trinity River Feasibility Study (UTRFS), and was originally authorized under the United States Senate Committee on Environmental and Public Works Resolution dated April 22, 1988. The Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study was initiated, within the authorized UTRFS, in 1999.

V. PROJECT HISTORY

1. Please briefly explain the level of support for the project in the local and any other community (if letters of support exist, please attach to this form).

The Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study is supported and coordinated by the North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG), the Texas Water Development Board, and the nine local communities of Tarrant County, Fort Worth, North Richland Hills, Richland Hills, Watauga, Saginaw, Haslet, and Keller. All participating communities have supported the project with pro-rata funding; based on the geographical area within the watershed, and have each signed an inter-local agreement for the study.

2. Has the project encountered any objections within the local or other interested communities? If so, please describe (if letters or official records exist noting objections to the project. please attach to this form).

- No known objections to the study.
- There have been complaints from participating cities that the study needs to be continued to identify and assess alternative strategies and projects to solve the problems.

3. Please briefly explain the current stage and expected timeline of the project in a great a detail as possible.

- Current - The initial feasibility studies have been partially completed for the current Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study and a Draft Interim Information Paper was published in August 2007, describing the initial findings and baseline conditions, including identification of problem areas.
- Expected Timeline – Based on availability of federal funding, the continuation of the feasibility phase could be continued into 2010. Depending upon federal and cost-shared local funding, and feasible alternatives, the next phases would be for more detailed analysis, eventual design and construction phases for FY 2011 and beyond.

VI. CONTACTS

1. Who is the primary point of contact for the request?

City of Richland Hills, TX. - Mr. Michael Barnes, P.E., Director or Public Works, 817-299-1835, mbarnes@richlandhills.com

Or Mr. Jim Quin, Richland Hills City Manager, 817-299-1805, jquin@richlandhills.com

Contact for the NCTCOG – Coordinating local sponsor of the Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study: Mr. Jack Tidwell, 817-640-3300, JTidwell@nctcog.org

2. Contact information (telephone and e-mail): See above information.

3. Mailing address of entity that would receive the funding?

Corps of Engineers, Fort Worth District
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, TX 76102

VII. TRANSPORTATION PROJECTS

1. How much of this request can be spent in fiscal year 2010?

This is not a transportation project, although some transportation construction could be required, especially along the major roadways, such as SH 10 (Baker Boulevard).

Although not a transportation project, it is estimated that the entire \$500,000 that is requested would be spent in FY 10.

2. If this is a highway, transit, rail, or aviation request, did you check eligibility with the state DOT, FTA, FRA, or FAA?

N/A _____

2a. If yes, did the agency indicate the project is eligible under the account requested?

N/A _____

3. If this is an FHWA request, is the project considered by the state and/or regional transportation officials as critical to their needs?

N/A _____

4. If a highway request, is the project on the state's transportation improvement plan?

N/A _____

PRIORITY PROJECT REQUEST CRITERIA

CERTIFICATION:

I, David L. Ragan, Mayor of Richland Hills, TX, ATTEST THAT THIS PROJECT REQUEST MADE ON BEHALF OF the City of Richland Hills, TX MEETS THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA:

1. All appropriations requests must be a priority for the 26th District and/or the country-at large as defined as enhancing life, liberty, or the general welfare.
2. All requests must be a proper and wise use of federal taxpayer dollars and must be justified as such. Projects that include a commitment to match federal funds will receive priority consideration.

3. All requests will be immediately posted on the website and supporting documentation made available to press outlets and interested individuals.
4. None of the funding requested will be used for a building, program, or project that has been named for Congressman Michael C. Burgess, M.D. No request will be made that Congressman Burgess or his spouse has any financial interest
5. All requests shall be made in accordance with House of Representatives rules, and within Appropriations Committee deadlines. No funding request will be submitted after the deadline established by the Committee

Name of person certifying: Mr. Jim W. Quin

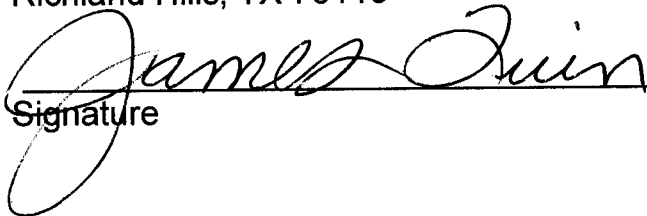
Title of person certifying: City Manager, Richland Hills, TX

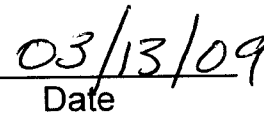
Project name as it will appear in the bill: **Richland Hills, TX Flood Control Project** – Big Fossil Creek Watershed Study, A Project Management Plan of the Upper Trinity River Feasibility Study

Legal name of entity making request: City of Richland Hills, Texas

Address:

3200 Diana Drive
Richland Hills, TX 76118


Signature


Date



City of Richland Hills
-Improvements-
Exhibit 1

Improvements Legend

- Streams
- Study Improvements

Flood Hazard Area

- X
- A.
- AE.
- AE, FLOODWAY
- AO.

Parcels w/ Structures in 100yr FP

BFC-5.....	198
BFC-5A.....	37
BFC-5B.....	42
West Fork Trib.....	21
Calloway Br.....	14

* City Limits for the City of Richland Hills obtained from the North Central Texas Council of Governments website (NCTCOG.org)

** The parcels represented on this map are from the Tarrant Appraisal District (TAD), dated January 2007.

*** Aerial Photography Source: North Central Texas Council of Governments (NCTCOG) dated 2007.



Legend

Repetitive Losses CLAIMS

- 1
- 2
- 3
- 4
- 5
- 11

Severe Repetitive Losses CLAIMS

- 1
- 2

Improvements

- A - Hardisty Street
- B - Matthews Drive
- C - Kingsbury Bypass
- D - Richland Elementary Detention
- E - Baker Detention
- F - Latham Bypass
- G - Magnolia Park
- H - West Fork Phase 1
- I - West Fork Phase 2
- J - Calloway Branch
- K - Baker Bypass