

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 23, 2025

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro,

I am requesting \$13,000,000 in funding for the FY26 Clear Creek Texas Flood Risk Management Project. The entity to receive funding for this project is the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, located at 2000 Fort Point Road, Galveston, TX 77550.

The project was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1968. The Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD) has entered into a project partnership agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to carry out this project. Flood risk reduction is a primary mission of USACE and the project has met rigorous federal standards to be eligible for federal investment. The channel conveyance improvements on mainstem Clear Creek will increase the conveyance of runoff away from homes and streets, while the stormwater detention basins will safely store the excess storm water so that it does not negatively impact any other area.

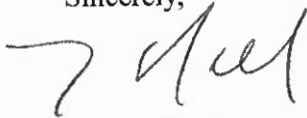
The combination of these features reduces flood risk for the area, while the riparian floodplain habitat restoration will enhance the resilience of the region. Historically, this region has experienced devastating flooding events, including the floods of 1929 and 1935, which helped with the passing of the U.S. Flood Control Act of 1936 and establishing the HCFCD in 1937. This specific project got its initial start as a result of widespread flooding from Hurricane Carla in 1961, which experienced 12 inches of rain and caused \$300 million of damage (in 1961 dollars). Then this area experienced devastating flooding in 1979 with Tropical Storm Claudette, in 2001 with Tropical Storm Allison, in 2017 with Hurricane Harvey, and again most recently in 2020 with Tropical Storm Beta. Once complete, the proposed project storm water detention basins and channel improvements in Clear Creek and Mud Gully will provide immediate benefits by removing the floodplain impact from 590 existing structures and reducing it for 4,888 existing structures for the 1% AEP (100-year) inundation area. Note that 1,820 of these structures are located within disadvantaged communities.

Specifically, the project is an appropriate use of taxpayer funds because of the following reasons: The project includes improvements to the Clear Creek watershed for flood risk reduction purposes by conducting channel widening, building storm water detention basins, and incorporating engineering with nature features to protect against floods up to a 1% AEP (100-year) magnitude. The project will also restore habitat to achieve the most reasonable balance between structural modification of the creek, floodplain regulations, and a broad program of floodplain management. The project will benefit mainstem Clear Creek as well as several tributaries. The project also includes the addition of off-line detention basins: the Pearland Parkway Detention Basin and expansion provides 600 ac-ft of storage, the Wayside East and West Basins provide 255 ac-ft of storage, the City of Pearland Detention Basins provide 505 ac-ft of storage, and the Hughes Detention Basin provides 1,000 ac-ft of storage.

The project has a Federal nexus because the funding provided is for purposes authorized by a WRDA 2014 Section 1043(b) agreement.

I also certify that I have no financial interest in this project, and neither does anyone in my immediate family.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "T. Nehls", written over the word "Sincerely,".

Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress