

December 1, 2017

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor, State of Texas
PO Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott,

Hurricane Harvey devastated much of the gulf coast of Texas and the Lake Houston Area, comprised of the City of Humble, Kingwood (City of Houston), Atascocita and Summer Creek was not immune.

So far the State of Texas has issued no plans regarding funding for either short-term or long-term remediation and/or prevention of future catastrophic flooding for the Lake Houston Area.

Working through the immense rainfall from Hurricane Harvey, the City of Humble and Kingwood suffered another devastating blow with the decision made by the San Jacinto River Authority to release water during the middle of the night without warning or coordination with the City of Humble or Harris County Office of Emergency Management. The decision to release an unprecedented 79,100 cubic feet per second greatly exacerbated flooding throughout the area as the water rushed down the San Jacinto River. The San Jacinto River Authority is governed by an appointed board of five people – none of whom live or represent the citizens or businesses downstream in the Lake Houston Area.

Consequently, tons of sand and siltation from sand mining operations along the San Jacinto River were deposited into the river, its tributaries and Lake Houston. White sand clogged the waterways and created multiple choke points along the river and as well as a devastating loss of capacity for both the river and lake. Without remediating this issue, the Lake Houston Area could easily flood again with minimal rainfall.

As of November 15, 2017 the **SBA had identified more than 16,000 homes and more than 3,300 businesses** in the Lake Houston Area that were affected by Hurricane Harvey. This equates to 20 percent of all homes and 40 percent of all businesses in our communities. These preliminary numbers will only grow as efforts are continued to repair structures and rebuild the economy.

Therefore, I am requesting immediate action on the following three items to help recover the Lake Houston Area: **Remediation, Reduction and Representation.**

- 1. REMEDIATION.** Immediately remediate Lake Houston and the San Jacinto River. I'm requesting full funding to dredge the lake and river to remove the sand, siltation and debris deposits. Additionally, stricter enforcement of TCEQ regulations on legal and illegal sand mining operations is necessary and urgently needed.
- 2. REDUCTION.** Immediately decrease the pooling level of Lake Conroe from 201 feet above sea level to 198 feet by pre-releasing water from Lake Conroe in a slow, systematic flow to ensure the dam at Lake Houston can then release this added water to the Gulf of Mexico. This is CRITICAL as the area has experienced three flood events since 2015.
- 3. REPRESENTATION.** Immediately add three interim board members to the San Jacinto River Authority representing communities downstream impacted by the release of water from Lake Conroe. These appointed board members would serve until legislation can be crafted to best address the issue of downstream representation on their board.

Our community has done all we physically and financially can to rebuild the Lake Houston Area, but without your support and intervention we will never be able to fully recover from this devastating storm.

Sincerely,

NAME
TITLE & BUSINESS or Resident of XXXXXXX
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City, State Zip

December 1, 2017

The Honorable Dan Patrick
Lt. Governor, State of Texas
P.O. Box 12068
Austin, TX 78711

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The Honorable Lyle Larson
Chair, Natural Resources
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Chairman Larson,

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The Honorable Charles Perry
State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711-2068

Dear Chairman Perry,

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The Honorable Craig Estes
State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
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Dear Senator Estes,

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The Honorable Senfronia Thompson
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Representative Thompson,

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The Honorable Dan Huberty
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

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The Honorable Harold Dutton
Texas House of Representatives
P.O. Box 2910
Austin, TX 78768

Dear Representative Dutton,

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The Honorable Brandon Creighton
State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
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Dear Senator Creighton,

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Working through the immense rainfall from Hurricane Harvey, the City of Humble and Kingwood suffered another devastating blow with the decision made by the San Jacinto River Authority to release water during the middle of the night without warning or coordination with the City of Humble or Harris County Office of Emergency Management. The decision to release an unprecedented 79,100 cubic feet per second greatly exacerbated flooding throughout the area as the water rushed down the San Jacinto River. The San Jacinto River Authority is governed by an appointed board of five people – none of whom live or represent the citizens or businesses downstream in the Lake Houston Area.

Consequently, tons of sand and siltation from sand mining operations along the San Jacinto River were deposited into the river, its tributaries and Lake Houston. White sand clogged the waterways and created multiple choke points along the river and as well as a devastating loss of capacity for both the river and lake. Without remediating this issue, the Lake Houston Area could easily flood again with minimal rainfall.

As of November 15, 2017 the **SBA had identified more than 16,000 homes and more than 3,300 businesses** in the Lake Houston Area that were affected by Hurricane Harvey. This equates to 20 percent of all homes and 40 percent of all businesses in our communities. These preliminary numbers will only grow as efforts are continued to repair structures and rebuild the economy.

Therefore, I am requesting immediate action on the following three items to help recover the Lake Houston Area: **Remediation, Reduction and Representation.**

- 1. REMEDIATION.** Immediately remediate Lake Houston and the San Jacinto River. I'm requesting full funding to dredge the lake and river to remove the sand, siltation and debris deposits. Additionally, stricter enforcement of TCEQ regulations on legal and illegal sand mining operations is necessary and urgently needed.
- 2. REDUCTION.** Immediately decrease the pooling level of Lake Conroe from 201 feet above sea level to 198 feet by pre-releasing water from Lake Conroe in a slow, systematic flow to ensure the dam at Lake Houston can then release this added water to the Gulf of Mexico. This is CRITICAL as the area has experienced three flood events since 2015.
- 3. REPRESENTATION.** Immediately add three interim board members to the San Jacinto River Authority representing communities downstream impacted by the release of water from Lake Conroe. These appointed board members would serve until legislation can be crafted to best address the issue of downstream representation on their board.

Our community has done all we physically and financially can to rebuild the Lake Houston Area, but without your support and intervention we will never be able to fully recover from this devastating storm.

Sincerely,

NAME
TITLE & BUSINESS or Resident of XXXXXXX
Address
City, State Zip

December 1, 2017

The Honorable Sylvia Garcia
State Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, TX 78711-2068

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