



## Sallie Alcorn

Houston City Council Member

At-Large, Position 5

November 19, 2020

Dear USACE Galveston District,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Buffalo Bayou and Tributaries, Texas Resiliency Study (BBTRS) Interim Report. I have read Mayor Turner's letter in response to the Interim Report and I concur with his comments. In addition, I offer the following:

I have concerns related to Alternative 2 – Cypress Creek Reservoir and Dam. This alternative would take an estimated 20 years to complete once funded. Until the facility is complete, there are zero incremental benefits for flood reduction in the study area. USACE should study additional, intermediary projects to increase storage capacity in the northern study area watersheds. Further, construction of this alternative would have serious negative impacts on the Katy Prairie which provides numerous ecological benefits and covers thousands of acres in western Harris and Waller Counties.

I urge USACE to consider further exploration of Alternative 3 – Addicks and Barker Reservoir Excavation. Excavation could increase storage beyond the 15% reflected in the report. I support Houston Stronger's plan to restore and double the storage capacity of Barker and Addicks Reservoirs. As a proponent of dual-use recreational greenspace and flood mitigation, I request USACE look further into projects like Willow Fork Drainage District's Barker Reservoir Flood Risk Reduction and Park Project which creates 3,000 acre feet of storage while providing recreational trails for Houstonians.

I urge USACE to consider further exploration of Alternative 4 – Tunnels. I understand this alternative was eliminated due to excessive cost, between \$6.5 and \$12 billion; however, this cost estimate is higher than costs prepared by private engineering firms and an evaluation by the Harris County Flood Control District (HCFCD). I have been following HCFCD's work studying tunnel conveyance as a method of flood mitigation and believe this option deserves further study.

I have concerns related to Alternative 6 – Buffalo Bayou Channel Improvements. Deepening and widening 22 miles of the channel and the recommended use of articulated concrete present serious environmental concerns. A similar concept was previously funded by USACE in the mid-1950s, but was halted after efforts made by then Congressman George H.W. Bush and Houston environmentalist Terry Hershey. This strong opposition came at a time when far fewer residents lived along Buffalo Bayou and environmental regulations were not nearly as strong as today. Community opposition to this alternative is significant.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these comments.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sallie Alcorn".

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