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November 20, 2020

Colonel Timothy R. Vail
Commander
United States Army Corps of Engineers -- Galveston District
P.O. Box 1229
Galveston, Texas 77553-1229

Re: Buffalo Bayou and Tributaries Resiliency Study (BBTRS) Interim Report

Dear Colonel Vail:

I appreciate the work and engagement of the Galveston District of U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in developing alternative strategies to mitigate flooding and improve water conveyance along Buffalo Bayou, including the work reflected in the Interim Feasibility Report for the Buffalo Bayou and Tributaries Resiliency Study (Interim Report).

I particularly appreciate your personal engagement with residents of Texas' Seventh Congressional District, including your participation in our town hall meeting, which more than 1,200 people attended. The community participation in that meeting, and the active engagement of my constituents in many ways, demonstrates the significance of these proposals in our community and the importance of building consensus on the path forward.

With that in mind, I write to share with you the requests and concerns of my constituents in Texas' Seventh Congressional District, and to urge you to continue with the constructive and meaningful engagement with us that you have demonstrated in this process.

First, I ask that the Corps continue to accept public comment, as it has previously suggested it will do. As was evident at our town hall meeting, the unique expertise of local residents is beneficial to this process. It is, of course, a requirement of the National Environmental Policy Act review process, but it is also absolutely essential for our community to develop a consensus about the locally preferred alternatives and to be heard here, where the magnitude of the project and its importance cannot be understated.

To that end, I ask that the Corps make the data and modeling used in the study available to the public for review and analysis. While I understand the Interim Report focuses on a top-level, conceptual review of the alternatives in advance of the Draft Report, my constituents will gain confidence and a deeper understanding of the Corps' analysis and will be able to engage in a

more meaningful way about the proposed alternatives with data in hand. This data is not available for independent public review, and providing it as many have requested will ensure a transparent and collaborative process.

Many of my constituents have submitted comments directly to you in this process encouraging additional or alternative solutions. I urge you to consider these thoughtful and thorough proposals, and to collaborate on the selection of alternatives as you move forward. It is a priority of my constituents, and of the Congress, to include natural infrastructure and nature-based solutions, as is reflected in the work of the 116th Congress. It is also the strong preference of my constituents to preserve the natural beauty and environment of Buffalo Bayou in any path forward. Working together, I am confident that we can advance these objectives while mitigating flood risk and improving conveyance. As is often the case, the details will be essential to understanding the scope, the impacts, and the full range of responses.

For these reasons, I look forward to continuing our dialogue and engaging in this vitally important project for Texas' Seventh Congressional District and for the entire Houston region. I welcome the opportunity to facilitate additional conversations with my constituents and to convene all stakeholders to arrive at a plan our community will support. Thank you for your commitment to doing so and for your engagement throughout this process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Lizzie Fletcher". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress