

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PROJECT BRAZOS

WHEREAS, the Brazos River is the eleventh longest river in the United States and stretches more than 1,280 miles, with approximately 10,000 square miles of watershed within the lower basin that flows free, without reservoir control, through the 89 miles that run through Fort Bend County and has seen erosion due to river meander; and

WHEREAS, the rate of erosion has accelerated due to the historic rain events in 2015, 2016 and Hurricane Harvey and has significantly damaged public and private infrastructure and property; and

WHEREAS, in 2014, the Brazos River Authority with assistance from Fort Bend County, the City of Sugar Land, and other stakeholders initiated the Lower Brazos River Basin Flood Plain Protection Study which was completed in 2019; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, the City of Sugar Land authorized Huitt-Zollars, Inc. to perform a study of erosion along the Brazos River which was then expanded in 2017 after Hurricane Harvey; and

WHEREAS, the City of Sugar Land completed the erosion study on August 7, 2018 which identified 5 critical locations that have experienced severe erosion from 2015 to the present day; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court completed a study on May 23, 2019 which identified an additional 8 critical locations that have experienced severe erosion from 2015 to the present day; and

WHEREAS, the studies performed by Fort Bend County and the City of Sugar Land identified pro-active approaches to mitigating river erosion at critical points along the Brazos River which would positively impact the lives of Fort Bend County residents and approximately \$8 billion of public and private assets such as the State Highway 99 Bridge, US 90A, Interstate 69/State Highway 59, the Brazos River Turnaround, the University of Houston Sugar Land, Memorial Hermann Hospital, Memorial Park, the Union Pacific Rail Road Bridge, the FM 1093 bridge, and multiple neighborhoods in Fort Bend County; and

WHEREAS, the Fort Bend County Commissioners Court established a committee, Project Brazos, on September 24, 2019, consisting of Commissioner DeMerchant, Commissioner Morales and Mark Vogler, Chief Engineer Drainage District, to review and take action on the completed study performed by the County; and

WHEREAS, Fort Bend County, the Fort Bend County Drainage District, and the City of Sugar Land have worked closely to address the issue of the continued erosion of the Brazos River; and

WHEREAS, on December 11, 2019, the Project Brazos team held a meeting with Senator Lois Kolkhorst, Representative Rick Miller, Representative Phil Stephenson, Representative Ron Reynolds, and representatives from the Office of Senator Borris Miles, TxDOT, the Brazos River Authority, and the Army Corps of Engineers – Galveston District, to discuss Project Brazos and funding opportunities for this critical project; and

WHEREAS, partnering with State and local governmental leaders, Project Brazos is taking a unified regional approach to addressing the accelerated rate of erosion of the Brazos River as well as preventing future erosion.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMISSIONERS COURT OF FORT BEND COUNTY, TEXAS:

THAT ON FEBRUARY 25, 2020, THE **FORT BEND COUNTY COMMISSIONERS COURT**, MEETING AS A BODY IN RICHMOND, TEXAS, ADOPTS THIS RESOLUTION AND URGES STATE, FEDERAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTAL LEADERS TO SUPPORT PROJECT BRAZOS

SIGNED THIS 25TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2020

K.P. GEORGE
COUNTY JUDGE

VINCENT MORALES
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 1

ANDY MEYERS
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 3

JAMES "GRADY" PRESTAGE
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 2

KEN R. DEMERCHANT
COMMISSIONER, PRECINCT 4

ATTEST:

LAURA RICHARD, COUNTY CLERK