

Harris County Bond Election Proposed for August 25th

Barbara Thomason, President, Houston Northwest Chamber of Commerce

On May 30, 2018, Harris County Judge Ed Emmett and Harris County Flood Control Executive Director Russ Poppe held a press conference to introduce the plans for the 2018 proposed bond projects. They plan to pursue a \$2.5 billion flood infrastructure bond. This amount could shift based on input from the public, based on federal and state funding that may be forthcoming. The bond would cover such projects as channel modification, stormwater detention basins, engineering studies to determine flood risk in different watersheds, local match funds for federal grants and buyouts of at-risk homes.

Key to the bond proposed is that the county will be hosting about 23 public meetings in each of the watersheds during the summer, completing them by the first week of August when early voting for the Bond would begin. The meeting for the Cypress Creek watershed has not been finalized but may take place on June 26th at John Wesley United Methodist Church.

It is important for the community to understand that Harris County does not have jurisdiction over the Addicks and Barker Reservoirs nor would it have responsibility for the creation of a third reservoir, though Harris County would serve as an active partner with the Army Corps of Engineers. With regard to the third reservoir, Judge Emmett indicated that recent reports concluded that the third reservoir needs to protect Cypress Creek and the Katy Prairie. We have been assured by Congressman Michael McCaul that every effort is being made to accelerate the Army Corp of Engineer's timeline to initiate these projects.

View the press conference in its entirety at: <https://www.pscp.tv/w/1yNGakgdeEqxi>

View Harris County Flood Control Projects and Bond updates at: <https://www.hcfcd.org/>

Cypress Creek Community residents and businesses may stay tuned to the Chamber's website and social media for additional updates specific to the Cypress Creek watershed.