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February 9, 2018

Since Hurricane Harvey devastated our communities, I have been working with my colleagues in the House and Senate to provide the resources we need to recover and rebuild. My number one priority in Washington has been getting federal assistance to my neighbors impacted by Harvey. I worked across the aisle to unite the Texas and Florida Congressional delegations to ensure that our districts did not settle for insufficient disaster requests from the Administration. Our efforts were successful – Congress has provided over \$55 billion more than the Office of Management and Budget requested.

The combined total provided in all three disaster bills is over \$141 billion, with a large portion of that funding headed to Texas.

This critical funding will help us all recover from these storms and mitigate against future flooding damage. The funding allows FEMA to continue to provide assistance to individuals and households, provides funding for housing, provides money for local flood mitigation projects, reimburses state and local first responders, pays for debris removal and directs the Army Corps to undertake studies and projects that will mitigate the impacts of future storm events.

Below is a detailed overview of the three disaster relief supplemental bills that have been signed into law since Hurricane Harvey, highlighting key areas that will help our community recover and rebuild stronger to protect us against future storms.

### **September 8, 2017 – First Disaster Supplemental**

- \$15.25 billion in overall funding
  - \$7.4 billion for the FEMA Disaster Relief Fund
    - The Disaster Relief Fund is used by FEMA for response and recovery efforts following a major disaster
    - This fund pays for things like hotel stays, home repair grants, rental assistance and other critical needs.
    - It also funds repair and restoration of qualifying disaster damaged public infrastructure, hazard mitigation initiatives, and financial assistance to eligible disaster survivors
  - \$7.4 billion – Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)

- Texas received a \$5.024 billion allocation of this funding
- These funds can be used for housing, business, infrastructure, and mitigation needs for communities to recover from disasters
- Housing recovery is a major aspect of this program, and individual homeowners can be eligible for rebuilding funds after previous storms
- On February 9, HUD issued the Federal Register Notice with guidance for the grantees which is the next step towards getting this money to the communities that desperately need assistance
- **The General Land Office administers these funds in Texas, and will now develop an implementation plan, with community input, on how to allocate this money within the state.**
- \$450 million – SBA Disaster Loan Program
  - These are low interest loans that are available to many individuals and businesses to help them recover from the storm.

### **October 10, 2017 – Second Disaster Supplemental**

- \$36.5 billion in overall funding
  - \$18.7 billion - FEMA Disaster Relief Fund
  - \$16 billion - National Flood Insurance Program
    - This funding was included to ensure they could meet all claims resulting from 2017 hurricane season.

### **February 9, 2018 – Third Disaster Supplemental**

- \$89.3 billion in overall funding
  - \$23.5 billion - FEMA Disaster Relief Fund
  - **\$17.39 billion - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers**
    - \$15.055 billion for repairs to ongoing construction projects, and to expedite construction projects that will help mitigate future disaster damage
      - The completion of ongoing projects, such as Project Brays, would be at full Federal expense.
      - \$10.425 billion of the construction funding will be used to expedite construction of projects for flood and storm damage reduction in areas affected by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, or Maria. **All authorized projects in Harris County, such as Hunting Bayou, White Oak Bayou, and Clear Creek are eligible for this funding.**
      - \$4.63 billion of the construction funding will be used for projects in states that have had more than one flood-related major disaster since 2014. **Harris County would also be eligible for this funding.**
      - **Construction funds could be used for projects that are studied as a result of the investigations the bill allows**

**for. This will allow us to undertake studies for potential new projects such the 3rd reservoir, and have the funding available to begin construction.**

- **\$608 million - Operation and Maintenance**
  - **This can be used for vital dredging of our federal navigation channels like the Port of Houston, which accumulated vast amounts of silt following Hurricane Harvey.**
- \$810 million for Flood Control and Coastal Emergencies to repair damages
- \$135 million to expedite high-priority studies to help mitigate future disaster damage
  - \$75 million would be available to areas impacted by Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.
  - The remaining \$60 million would be available to areas that have had more than one flood-related major disaster since 2014. Harris County would be eligible for this funding.
- \$28 billion - HUD CDBG-DR program
  - \$16 billion in grants to states, tribes, and territories for recovery efforts. This is a block grant program for disaster-affected communities with significant flexibility to address local needs
    - These funds can be used for housing, business, infrastructure, and mitigation needs for communities to recover from disasters
    - Housing recovery is a major aspect of this program, and individual homeowners can be eligible for rebuilding funds after previous storms
  - \$12 billion set-aside for mitigation projects to help communities protect against future natural disasters, and to protect the taxpayer from recurring costs of rebuilding after storms.
  - These funds will be allocated by HUD and administered by the Texas General Land Office
- \$1.65 billion - SBA disaster loan program.
  - This will allow SBA to make up to \$12.2 billion in disaster loans to small businesses and homeowners in all affected areas for recovery and rebuilding.
- \$2.79 billion - Department of Education
  - These funds will be used to restart operations in schools in affected areas, including school rebuilding and refurbishment and replacement of educational material.
- \$1.87 billion – Department of Defense and Homeland Security
  - This provides adequate funding to repair Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, Reserve, National Guard, Coast Guard, and medical military facilities, and to repair or replace equipment damaged by the hurricanes in all affected areas.

- \$1.374 billion - Department of Transportation
  - This funding will to address all current damages to federal highways caused by designated disasters. These funds are provided directly to states and localities for repairs. The bill also includes \$330 million to help communities restore hurricane-damaged mass transit systems.

### **Total Funding Provided for 2017 Disasters**

- Over \$141 billion in overall funding including:
  - \$49.4 billion - FEMA Disaster Relief Fund
  - \$35.4 billion – Community Development Block Grant Disaster Recovery
  - \$17.39 billion - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
  - \$16 billion - National Flood Insurance Program
  - \$12.2 billion – SBA Disaster Loans
  - \$2.79 billion – Department of Education
  - \$1.87 billion – Department of Defense and Homeland Security
  - \$1.374 billion – Department of Transportation