

Hurricane Victims in Colorado River Basin to get \$1 million in aid

County Judges to distribute relief funds

LA GRANGE, Texas (Oct. 6, 2017) — Hurricane Harvey victims in the Lower Colorado River Basin will receive \$1 million in relief aid to help with urgent recovery efforts that haven't been funded by other sources following the devastating storm in late August.

The aid money will be distributed in Bastrop, Fayette, Colorado, Wharton and Matagorda counties by their County Judges, who will have wide discretion over disbursement for unmet immediate needs of residents. The \$1 million donation was made to the Lower Colorado River Basin Coalition, where the five county judges serve on the executive committee along with other local leaders.

The donation came from the Lower Colorado River Authority and is intended for distribution to those in need in the most expedient manner, according to the Lower Colorado River Basin Coalition.

"We know many victims of this historic hurricane and flooding, especially in small communities along the Colorado River, still desperately need help," said Robby Cook former State Representative and Kirby Brown of Ducks Unlimited, co-chairs of the Coalition.

"We want to thank the LCRA Board and staff for this incredibly generous donation, and through the counties we plan to have the money on the ground very quickly. We also believe many other generous folks still want to lend a helping hand."

Harvey dumped more than 20-25 inches in the river basin, triggering the worst flooding in a century. Damage to houses in Fayette County alone could be \$10 million or more, according to County Judge Ed Janecka.

In Wharton County, some of the money might be used to help water well owners identify contamination that resulted from the flooding and remediate it, said Wharton County Judge Phillip Spenrath.

"We will put this donation to good use as so generously intended by LCRA in the affected areas of Colorado County," said County Judge Ty Prause.

Bastrop County has now suffered five federally declared flood disasters in just 30 months.

"There is damage to the damage" said Judge Paul Pape. Infrastructure damage, as a result of Harvey, is estimated at \$4 million and 400 residences have registered with the Federal Emergency Management Agency for individual assistance.

More than 194,000 homes were damaged or destroyed across the state by Harvey, according to the Texas Department of Public Safety. The impact in the five counties is still being determined.

About 13,460 businesses in the five counties were potentially impacted, according to Dun & Bradstreet.

Harvey recovery efforts are expected to cost as much as \$180 billion statewide. Costs in the five counties are still being estimated.

Donations can be made at <http://www.waterdownstream.org/hurricane-relief/> or send checks to LCRBC Hurricane Harvey Recovery Fund c/o BC Chamber Charities, P.O. Box 768, Bay City, TX 77404.

The Coalition plans to make 100% of the initial \$1million available for hurricane victims. Contact your counties for further information.



The Colorado River at Columbus after Hurricane Harvey triggered the second highest flood since 1913.

ABOUT THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER BASIN COALITION

The Lower Colorado River Basin Coalition (www.waterdownstream.com) seeks a fair and balanced approach to water management of the Colorado River for all parties under all conditions – drought and flood. Equitable river management requires that river waters keep flowing downstream of Longhorn Dam all the way to the Matagorda Bay.

The Coalition is made up of broad and diverse interests from Travis County to Matagorda Bay, including: counties, cities, small communities, school districts, chambers of commerce, realtors, developers, businesses, industry, private landowners, agricultural groups, ag businesses, farmers, ranchers, conservation groups, environmental organizations, hunting and fishing guides and lodges, birding groups, nature tourism businesses, and others.

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