



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE
GEORGE P. BUSH, COMMISSIONER

July 20, 2018

The Honorable Ed Emmett
County Judge
Harris County
1001 Preston, Suite 911
Houston, TX 77002

RE: Approval of Harris County's Buyout Program Guidelines

Dear Judge Emmett:

The Texas General Land Office Community Development and Revitalization division (GLO-CDR) has completed its review of Harris County's (the County) Buyout Program Guidelines for the 2015 Floods, 2016 Floods, and Hurricane Harvey events. We are happy to inform you that the County's Buyout Program Guidelines are approved.

Following the initial review of the County's Buyout Program Guidelines, GLO-CDR staff requested that the County include a 3-year promissory note requirement for applicants who receive buyout incentives of up to the approved cap of \$230,000 (local HUD FHA Mortgage Limits). GLO-CDR staff noted that the County elected not add this requirement, and requests that the County reconsider and add this 3-year promissory note requirement to its Buyout Program Guidelines; the addition of this requirement will ensure that the intent of the buyout incentive satisfies HUD requirements.

As a reminder, an executed promissory note compels approved applicants to comply with ownership, principal residency, and home insurance (wind and flood, if applicable) requirements, among other items, for 3 years. Adherence to these requirements protects the County's efforts in relocating approved applicants out of harm's way and further protects those applicants should a future disaster event occur.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Management Analyst Doralicia Rivera at doralicia.rivera@glo.texas.gov or (512) 475-5053.

Sincerely,

Maureen Mahoney, Director
Regulatory Oversight
Community Development and Revitalization

cc: Daphne Lemelle, Director of Housing and Community Development
Christy Lambright, Assistant Director of Planning