



## Brazos River Authority

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April 30, 2021

Mr. Brandon Wade, PE  
General Manager/CEO  
Gulf Coast Water Authority  
3630 FM 1765  
Texas City, Texas 77591

Re: Evaluation of the Lower Navasota River

Dear Chairman Wade,

I am writing this letter on behalf of the Brazos River Authority (BRA) requesting the State and Regional Flood Planning Process -Region 8 (Lower Brazos Regional Flood Planning Group) evaluate the lower Navasota River in your initial flood planning efforts. This river segment has a history of flooding, and the evaluation of drainage and flood mitigation solutions is greatly needed.

BRA has extensive data on flows in the Navasota River, including the operation of Lake Limestone, and would be willing to make available resources to help evaluate solutions. Flow data from before and after the completion of the Sterling C. Robertson dam at Lake Limestone demonstrates that the Lake does not exacerbate downstream flooding beyond that which would have occurred naturally in the dam's absence. Lake Limestone was designed and constructed as a water supply reservoir to be operated at its conservation pool elevation of 363 feet above mean sea level. It was not designed or intended for flood control, and efforts to change its purpose or method of operation to provide flood control cannot be achieved without jeopardizing water supply reliability or dam safety. Therefore, study efforts should focus on other flood mitigation options.

As you are aware, in 2019 BRA completed the Lower Brazos Flood Protection Planning Study. This was an effort with multiple local stakeholders along the lower Brazos River to develop a comprehensive basin-based flood protection planning study to more accurately determine the overall existing flood hazards and determine ways to mitigate and manage flood impacts.

One of the recommendations of that study was to develop a hydraulic model for the Navasota River. Waller County requested and successfully received state funding through the Texas Water Development Board Flood Infrastructure Fund for this purpose, which BRA supported. The model that will ultimately be developed as part of the Waller County study on the Navasota River should be incorporated into the State and Regional Flood Planning Process to evaluate flood impacts and determine possible flood mitigation options along the lower Navasota River.

If our organization can be of any assistance, feel free to reach out to me at 254.761.3100.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David", with a large, stylized initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline.

David Collinsworth  
General Manager/CEO