

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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Priorities for Recovery and Rebuilding

- ❖ Rep. Culberson is working to ensure Congress does not settle for the insufficient Administration request of \$44 billion submitted to Congress in November. Rep. Culberson believes this request falls severely short of what is needed to recover from the 2017 hurricane season, and **he has successfully led the unification of the Texas and Florida Congressional delegations so they will vote together to ensure our communities receive as much funding as possible to rebuild our homes, repair and expand our flood control infrastructure, and return our lives to normal.**
- ❖ Rep. Culberson is working to secure enough federal funding to repair our existing flood control infrastructure and to build new projects that will mitigate future risk. Examples of projects Rep. Culberson is advocating for are:
 - A 3rd reservoir at the headwaters of Cypress Creek to reduce the amount of flood waters flowing into the Addicks and Barker Reservoirs
 - Advance funding to expedite completion of projects under construction, such as Project Brays
 - Funding to repair damage to Buffalo Bayou and to dredge the Houston Ship Channel
 - Advance funding to expedite completion of authorized projects, such as the Clear Creek channel improvements
- ❖ Rep. Culberson's ultimate flood mitigation priority is expanding our flood control infrastructure to protect us against 100-year flood events. The importance and effectiveness of this is proven by the improvements to Sims Bayou, which was the only watershed where homes did not flood because it was built to withstand a 100-year flood.
- ❖ Tens of thousands of District 7 residents were flooded by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers when they were forced to open the gates on Addicks and Barker to near maximum capacity. Rep. Culberson is working to compensate these individuals for the government actions that destroyed their properties through Community Development Block Grant – Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR) funding. Rep. Culberson is also working to change federal law so that individuals who took out a SBA loan to rebuild their homes are not disqualified from later receiving CDBG-DR funds. Individuals would be eligible to use the funds to rebuild their homes or repay their SBA loans with the funding.
- ❖ Rep. Culberson is working to ensure religious institutions are eligible to receive FEMA assistance to rebuild their facilities.

- ❖ Rep. Culberson is working with FEMA Administrator Brock Long, an innovative, out of the box thinker who wants to restructure FEMA to get more money to disaster victims more quickly at the front-end of the rebuilding process rather than at the back-end. It will take help from the Appropriations Committee to implement this new approach to get people their assistance faster, and Rep. Culberson is committed to doing everything in his power to do that.
- ❖ Rep. Culberson is an original cosponsor of the “Texas Flood Accountability Act of 2017” which will increase transparency and ensure our local, state, and federal officials have plans in place to notify communities of the potential effects of disasters.
- ❖ Rep. Culberson is a member of the Texas Task Force which was formed after Hurricane Harvey and is made up of a bipartisan group of House members. The task force is focused on coordinating the federal response to Hurricane Harvey as well as developing recommendations for disaster relief efforts and planning.

Since 2002, Representative Culberson has secured:

- ❖ \$206 million in federal funds for Brays Bayou
- ❖ \$113.749 million in federal funds for Buffalo Bayou
- ❖ \$2.856 million in federal funds for White Oak Bayou
- ❖ Congressman Culberson has worked to secure an additional \$74 million for flood control and storm damage reduction construction projects in the FY2018 energy and water appropriations bill.
- ❖ Rep. Culberson also included language in the fiscal year 2018 Energy and Water appropriations bill to direct the Administration to prioritize projects like Brays when allocating the additional funding provided for fiscal year 2018. This language will help ensure reimbursement projects HCFCDD is currently working on will continue to have the federal support they need to be completed on schedule.
- ❖ In September 2016, Rep. Culberson led a Texas delegation letter to House leadership to advocate for Texas to receive disaster funding in the supplemental appropriations bill. This letter resulted in Texas receiving \$45 million in disaster recovery funding.
- ❖ Rep. Culberson worked to secure \$68.771 million in additional disaster relief funding in FY17 for ongoing recovery from the 2015 and 2016 floods.
- ❖ Rep. Culberson secured legislative language to help the Harris County Flood Control District plan and execute flood mitigation projects.

It is an honor and a privilege to represent you and Texas in the United States Congress.