

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Harris County Flood Control District Begins Project to Complete Kluge Stormwater Detention Basin**

***Project will reduce flooding risks in Little Cypress Creek Watershed***

The Harris County Flood Control District has begun construction to complete the Kluge Stormwater Detention Basin, a project that will reduce flooding risks and damages in the Little Cypress Creek and Cypress Creek watersheds of northwest Harris County.

The 146-acre basin site is located just north of Little Cypress Creek, between Kluge Road and Longwood Trace Drive, and a few miles upstream of the confluence with Cypress Creek. Formally identified as HCFCD Unit L500-02-00, the basin was excavated several years ago through various *excavation and removal (E&R) contracts*, which provide a cost-effective way to perform preliminary excavation in advance of a future capital project. On July 8, 2014, Harris County Commissioners Court awarded an approximately $1.61 million construction contract to low bidder BRH-Garver Construction LP to complete the basin.

Construction began in late September and is expected to be completed in Spring 2015. Kluge Stormwater Detention Basin is the fourth of at least eight major stormwater detention basin construction projects begun, or tentatively scheduled to begin, by the Flood Control District this calendar year.

The project includes final grading of the basin slopes; construction of backslope interceptor swales, weir spillway structures and pilot channels; and rehabilitation of the Little Cypress Creek tributary formally identified as HCFCD Unit L103-00-00, which crosses the basin site. As part of this project, the Flood Control District will carefully consider opportunities to save or relocate existing trees on its right of way. When complete, the basin will hold more than 325 million gallons, or 1,000 acre-feet, of excess stormwater during periods of heavy rain.

*Interceptor swales* are shallow ditches located along the top of the basin slopes. These swales direct the flow of overland stormwater into the basin via *outfall pipes*, to prevent further erosion. *Erosion* is caused by a combination of poor soils and the movement of stormwater into a basin or bayou. It can cause a basin’s side slopes to degrade and eventually to fail. *Weirs* are a variety of structures designed to control and direct stormwater into a detention basin. *Pilot channels* are shallow ditches within a basin that direct stormwater flow.

The completed basin is designed to include areas with a permanent pool, planted with stormwater treatment wetlands. Future plans call for planting additional wetland vegetation near the point where stormwater enters the basin, to filter the stormwater and keep out floatable materials. A revegetation plan for the Kluge basin also includes planting trees by the water’s edge and portions of the side slopes to provide shade, stabilize the site, decrease mowing needs, and further enhance water quality and habitat. Tree planting will occur after basin construction and when the weather is best for such activities.

The Kluge basin property also contains more than three acres of created and enhanced wetlands, plus more than four acres of forested areas maintained as a buffer, which will be protected during and after the construction process.

**Construction-Related Activities**

The contractor will use large construction equipment to perform work on the project and to remove the vegetation from the site. Trucks will enter and exit the project site from Kluge Road via Flood Control District property and right of way. The Flood Control District appreciates your patience and understanding through the duration of this project.

Questions or comments from the public may be directed to the Flood Control District's Project and Study Information Line, which is monitored daily, at 713-684-4040, or may be emailed to [ProjectCommunications@hcfcd.org](mailto:ProjectCommunications@hcfcd.org)

**ABOUT THE HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT**

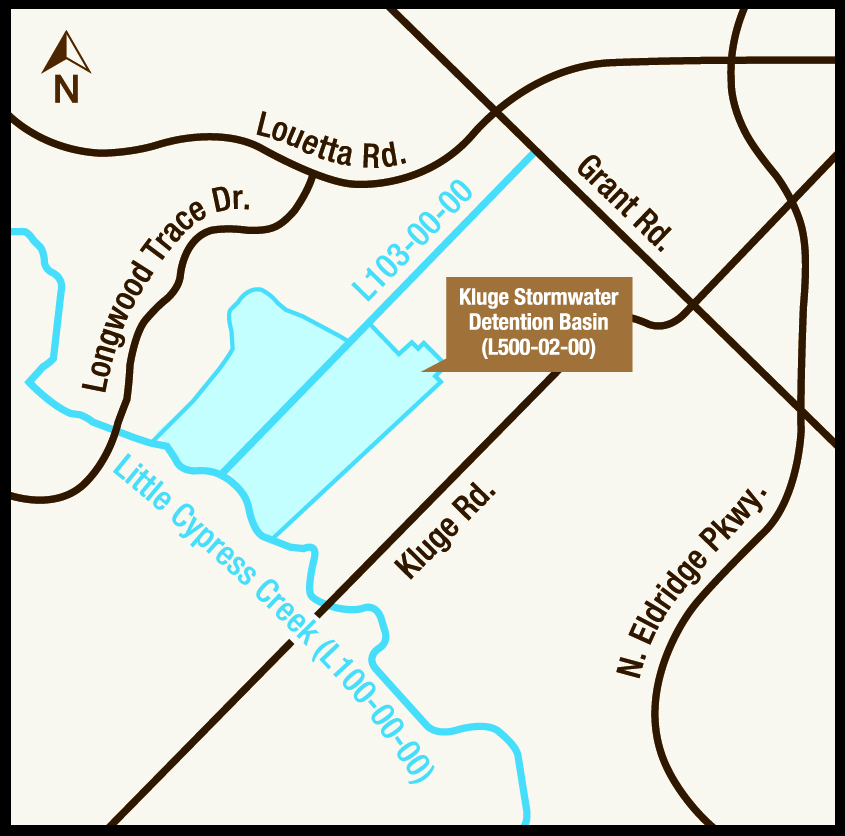
The Harris County Flood Control District provides flood damage reduction projects that work, with appropriate regard for community and natural values. With more than 1,500 bayous and creeks totaling approximately 2,500 miles in length, the Flood Control District accomplishes its mission by devising flood damage reduction plans, implementing the plans and maintaining the infrastructure. To learn more about the Flood Control District, visit [www.hcfcd.org](http://www.hcfcd.org).

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**Map Caption:**

HCFCD has begun construction to complete the Kluge Stormwater Detention Basin on Little Cypress Creek.

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