HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT PREPARES FOR LAST PHASE OF SIMS BAYOU PROJECT

"Motorists are Advised of Upcoming Bridge Closures and Traffic Detours Associated with Bridge Construction in Southwest Houston"

HOUSTON – The Harris County Flood Control District will begin construction on the first of the final four roadway bridges associated with the $379 million Sims Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction Project at the first of next month. The four roadway bridges cross Sims Bayou at Heatherbrook Drive, Croquet Street, South Post Oak Road and Hiram Clarke Road in southwest Houston. The bridges will be reconstructed in that order.

The U. S. Army Corps of Engineers is the lead agency on the Sims Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction Project, which includes the widening and deepening of 19.3 miles of Sims Bayou and adding environmental enhancements from the Houston Ship Channel to Croquet Street, just west of South Post Oak Road. The project is supplemented by three stormwater detention basins that were excavated by the District using local funds. The project also consists of the modification/replacement of 20 roadway bridges, of which 16 are complete. Construction of the remaining four bridges marks the final phase of the project, which launched in 1990 and is scheduled for completion in late 2012. From the onset of this project, the Flood Control District, as the local sponsor, has been responsible for property acquisition, utility relocation and the modification/replacement of the bridges that cross Sims Bayou.

Effective **Wednesday, June 1, 2011**, the Flood Control District's construction contractor, Rozco Contracting, Inc., will begin work on the Heatherbrook bridge. The bridge will be closed and traffic will detour around the construction zone via Amble Lane and Darlinghurst Drive when traveling west from S. Post Oak, and via Croquet when traveling east. This bridge will be closed for approximately six months.

After the new bridge at Heatherbrook opens, construction will begin on the bridge at Croquet, which also will be closed for approximately six months. Traffic will detour around the construction zone via Darlinghurst when traveling south and via Heatherbrook when traveling north. Motorists are encouraged to be alert, pay attention to all posted street and lane closures and to follow traffic detour routes in the area.

To maintain traffic flow through the heavily traveled S. Post Oak and Hiram Clarke corridors during construction, only one side of each bridge will be taken out of service at a time. The construction schedule and detour routes for these bridges will be announced at a later date.

At the completion of the Sims Bayou Federal Flood Damage Reduction Project, the 1 percent (100-year) floodplain will be removed from approximately 35,000 homes and 2,000 commercial structures, meaning flooding risks will be greatly reduced for citizens residing in neighborhoods adjacent to Sims Bayou. For more information on this project and its benefits to the community, please visit the District's website at www.hcfcd.org.

Please be aware that all closures are subject to change. For more information on the Sims Bayou bridge projects, including details on lane closures, major traffic switches, local detour routes, the anticipated schedule for construction on the S. Post Oak and Hiram Clarke bridges, and the opportunity to sign up to receive regular email updates, please visit the Sims Bayou Roadway Bridge Construction webpage at HCFCD.org/simsbridges or call the Sims Bayou bridge construction hotline at (713) 684-4107.

The Harris County Flood Control District builds projects that reduce flooding risks and damages while always considering the values of our community and the environment. Having jurisdiction over more than 2,500 miles of bayous and streams (about the distance from Los Angeles to New York City), the Flood Control District performs studies, devises plans and implements projects that reduce the risk of flooding. To learn more about the Flood Control District, visit hcfcd.org.