A light blue map of the Houston-Galveston Area Council service area, showing county boundaries. The map is centered on the text.

H-GAC's Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program

What is an OSSF?

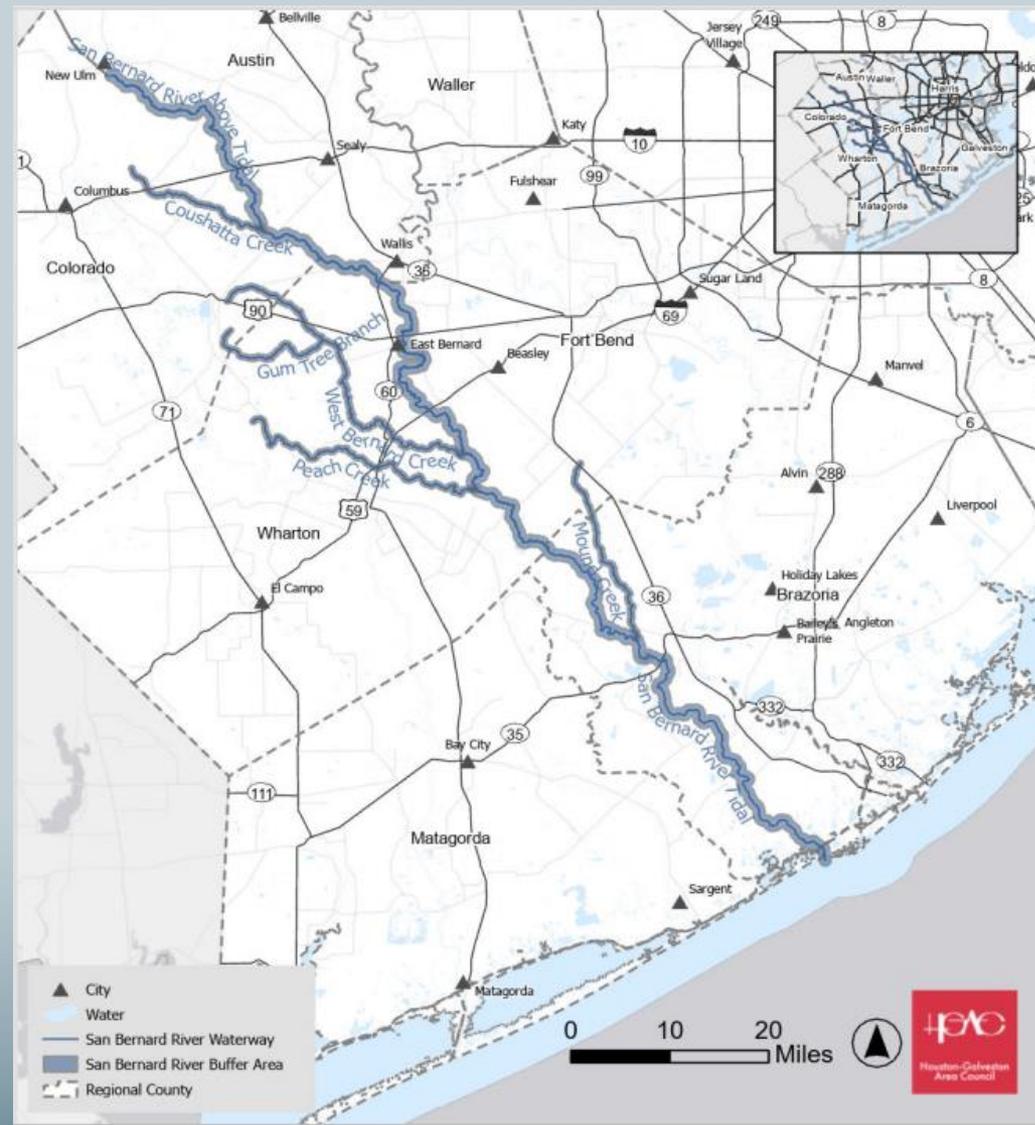


- On-Site Sewage Facility (OSSF), often referred to as a Septic System, but not all OSSFs are septic systems
 - Conventional (Septic System) OSSFs
 - Aerobic Treatment Unit OSSFs - ATUs
- OSSFs are used in areas where centralized residential **sewer is not available**
- Within the 13-county Houston-Galveston AC region there are more than 375,000 OSSFs, approximately 60% of which are unpermitted.
 - 18,684 new permitted systems in 2023
 - 144,515 total permitted systems as of 2023
 - Estimated 230,000 unpermitted systems

H-GAC Homeowner Wastewater Assistance Program

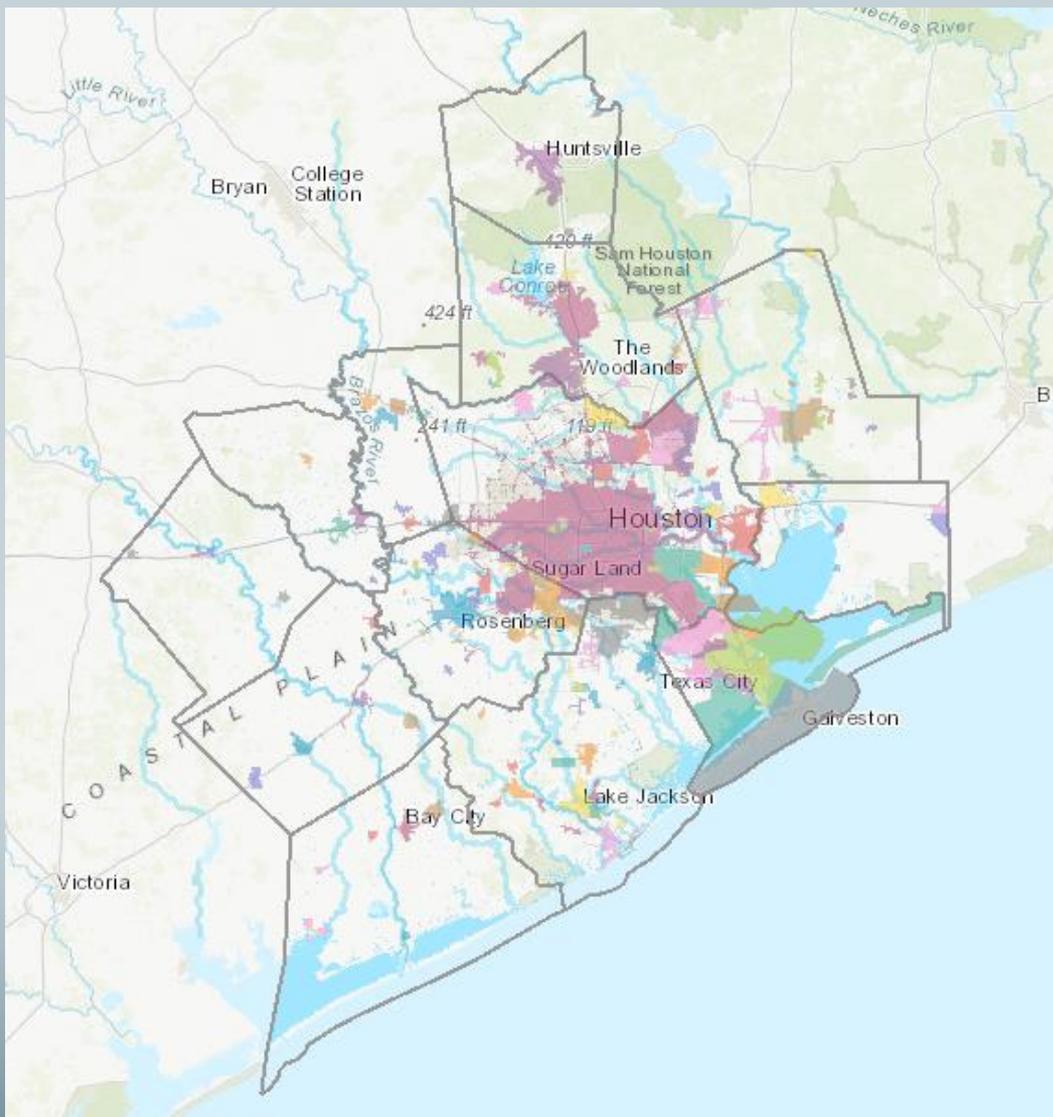
- Currently the Water Resources Group at H-GAC has two Supplemental Environmental Programs (SEPs) and four other programs that deal with repair or replacement of OSSFs
 - TCEQ SEP (funded by fines due to enforcement actions)
 - Harris County District Attorney's Office SEP (funded by enforcement action fines)
 - Olin Community Grant (funded through corporate and employee giving program)
 - Friends of the San Benard River Grant (\$15,000 per year)
 - TCEQ/GBEP BIL (multi year contract - \$285,000 for OSSF repair or replacement)
 - Wells Fargo Grant (\$20,000 grant)
- All programs have environmental benefits, helping affected communities avoid harmful environmental impact from failing OSSFs.
- Most of these programs cover locations within the BIG boundary.
 - This year we have received twelve (12) new homeowner requests for assistance.
 - Four of the twelve homeowners are within the BIG boundary.
 - We have been able to help seven of the twelve homeowners.
 - One of the seven is within the BIG boundary.

Friends of the San Benard River



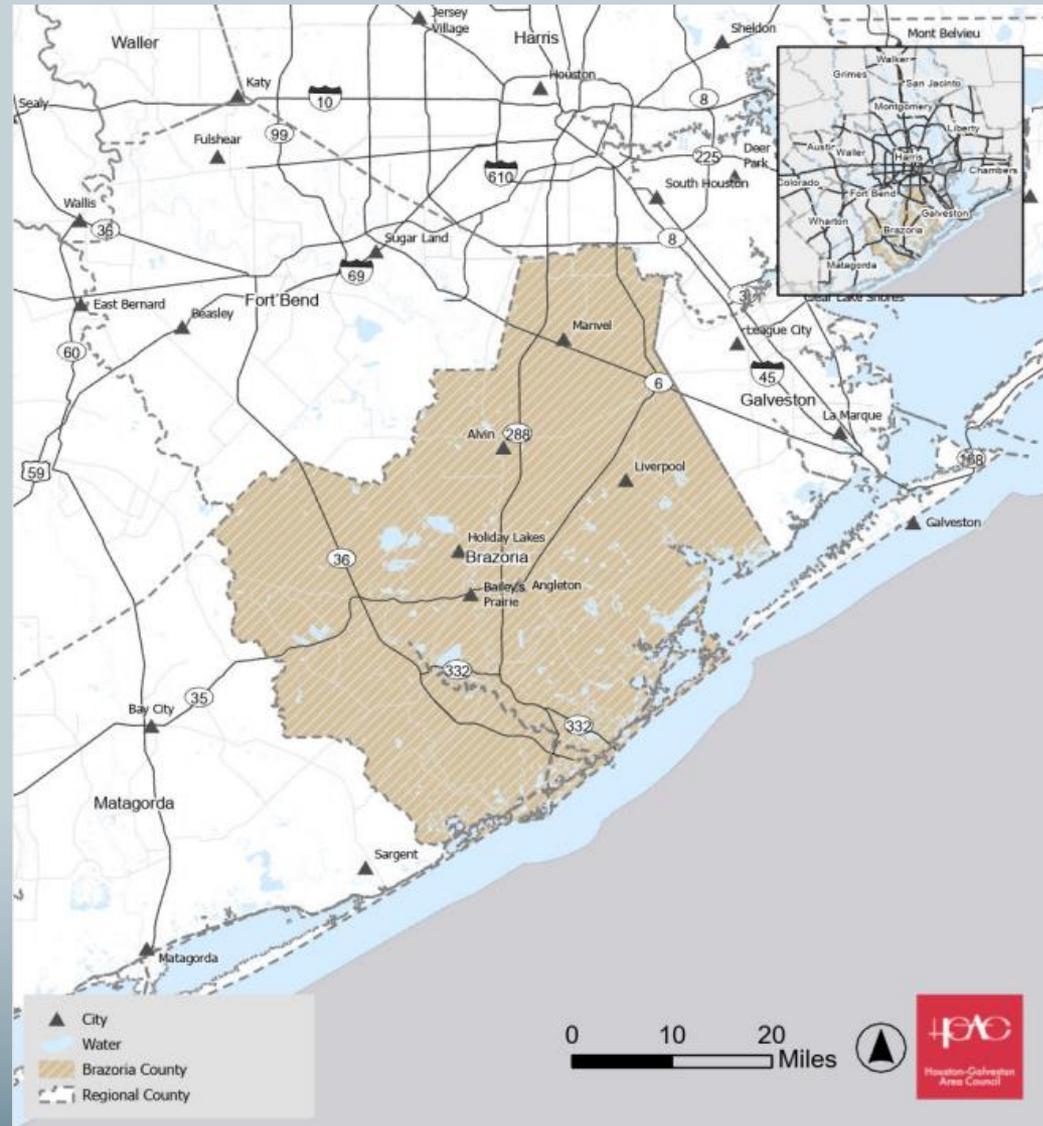
- Coverage: The property must be located in close proximity to the river or its main tributaries.
- For:
 - Repair or Replacement of OSSFs
 - Pumpouts of OSSFs
- Eligibility Requirements:
 - Failed or failing system
 - Owner lives and owns the property
 - The property is not new construction for sale
 - Owner must not earn more than 80% of median household income for that county.
- Available funds: \$15,000 for calendar year
- Area does not include the BIG

Harris County District Attorney (HCDA)



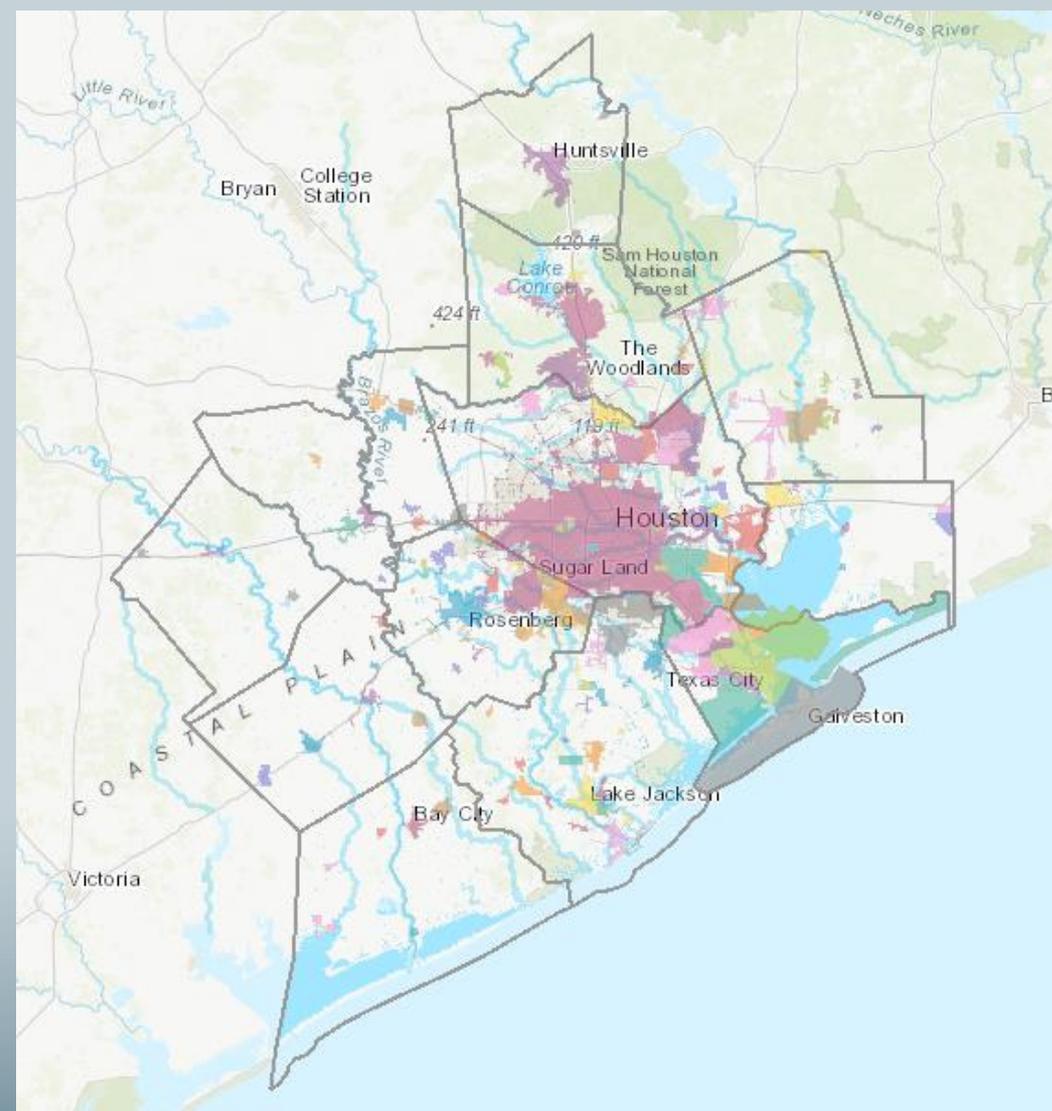
- Coverage: 13 County H-GAC Region
- For:
 - Repair or Replacement of OSSFs
 - Pumpouts of OSSFs
- Eligibility Requirements:
 - Failed or failing system
 - Owner lives and owns the property
 - The property is not new construction for sale
 - Owner must not earn more than 80% of median household income for that county.
- Available funds: \$10,000
- Area includes the BIG

Olin Grant



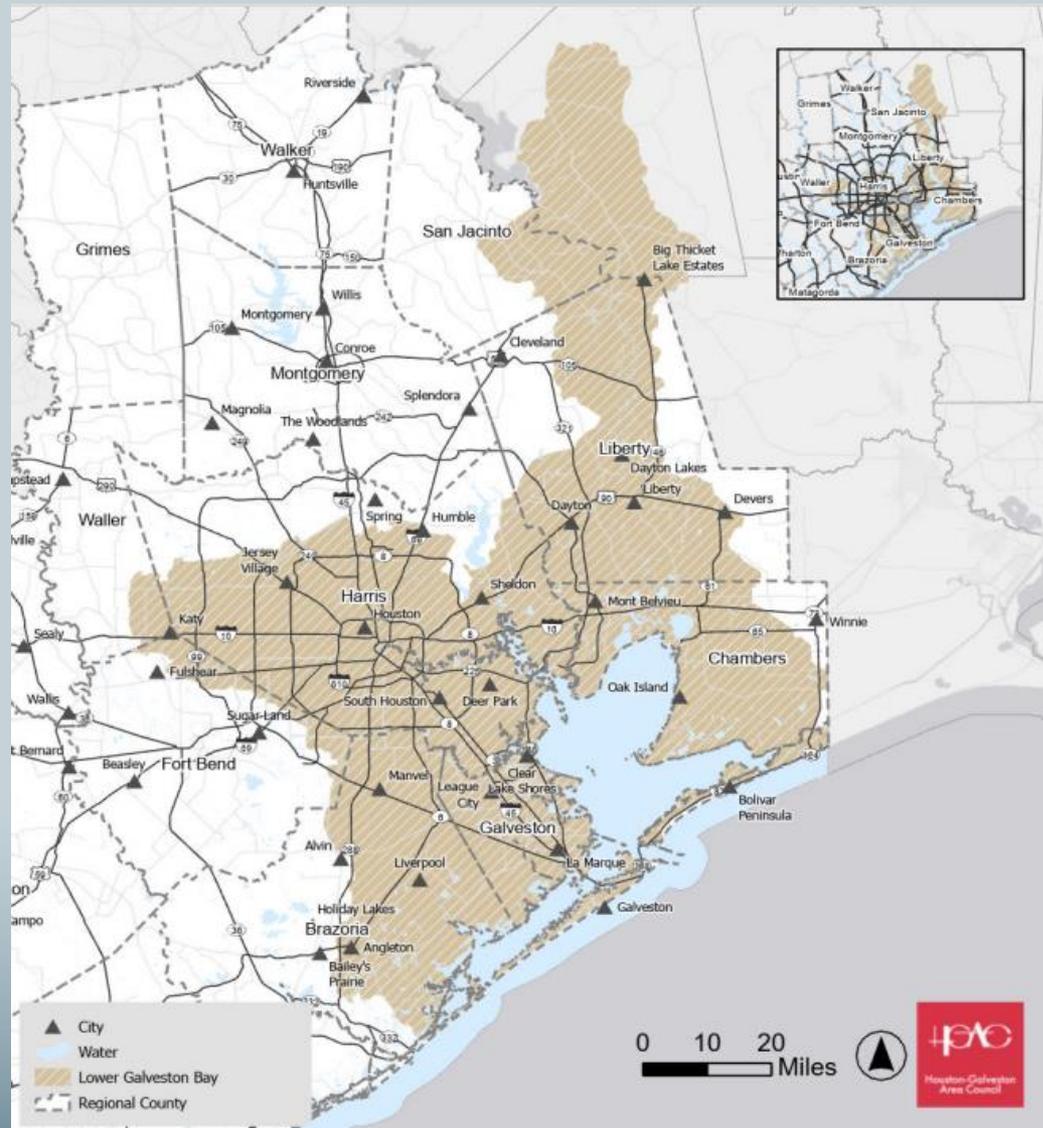
- Coverage: Brazoria County only
- Scope:
 - Repair or Replacement of OSSFs
 - Pet waste Stations
 - Clean up of dilapidated sites or dumps
- Eligibility Requirements:
 - Failed or failing system
 - Owner lives and owns the property
 - The property is not new construction for sale
 - Owner must not earn more than 80% of median household income for that county.
- Available funds: \$31,532
- Area includes the BIG

TCEQ SEP



- Coverage: 13 County H-GAC Region
- Scope:
 - Repair or Replacement of OSSFs
- Eligibility Requirements:
 - No code enforcements on the homeowner
 - Failed or failing system
 - Owner lives and owns the property
 - The property is not new construction for sale
 - Owner must not earn more than 80% of median household income for that county.
- Available funds: \$51,650
- Area includes the BIG

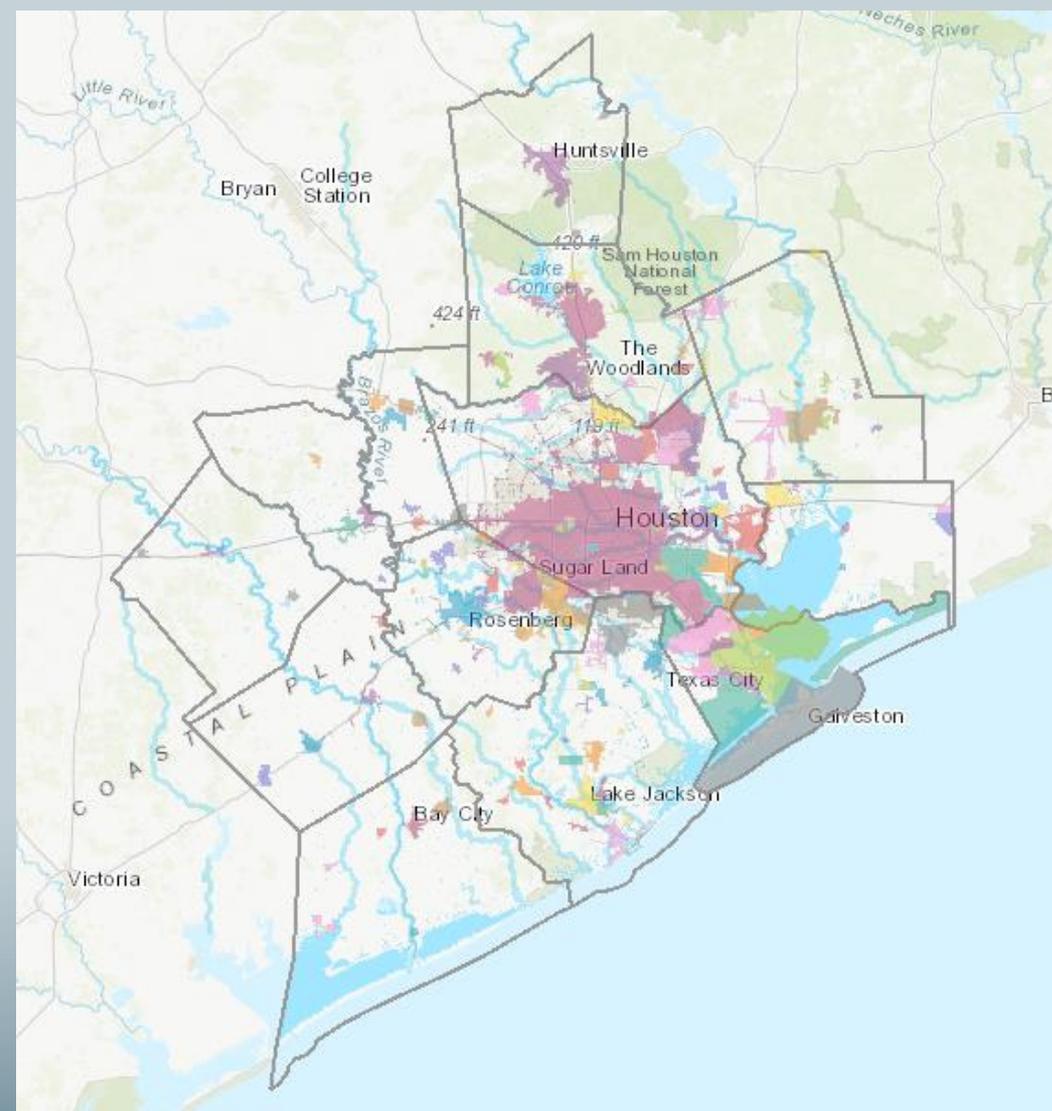
TCEQ/GBEP BIL



- Coverage: Lower Galveston Bay
- Scope:
 - Repair or Replacement at least 25 OSSFs
 - Conduct Homeowner OSSF Operations and Maintenance Course
- Eligibility Requirements:
 - Vulnerable and Unrepresented Communities
 - Failed or failing system
 - Attend Homeowner Education Workshop
 - Applicant must live and own the home
 - Applicant must not earn more than 80% of the median household income for the county
- Available funds: \$285,000
- Area includes the BIG

Wells Fargo Grant

- Coverage: 13 County H-GAC Region
- Scope:
 - Conduct Homeowner OSSF Operations and Maintenance Course
 - OSSF Pumpouts
 - Wastewater Workforce Development
- Eligibility Requirements:
 - Vulnerable Communities
 - Attend Homeowner Education Workshop
 - Applicant must live and own the home
 - Applicant must not earn more than 80% of the median household income for the county
- Available funds: \$20,000
- Area includes the BIG



Estimated Costs

Item	Approximate Cost
OSSF Installation	\$9,000 - \$15,000
Tie-In to Existing Sewer Service Lines	\$3,000 - \$5,200
Aerator or Effluent Pump Replacement	\$500 - \$900
Pump-Out and Sludge Hauling	\$500 - \$700
2-Year Maintenance Agreement	\$300 - \$500
Other OSSF Repairs	Varies

Contact Information

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