

The State of Texas



RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Flooding has become a severe and persistent problem around the FM 71 bridge that crosses the Sulphur River Basin south of Cooper Lake, near the boundary between Delta and Hopkins Counties; and

WHEREAS, Over recent decades, alternating periods of extreme drought and intense precipitation have caused trees along the river to die off, fall in, and be swept by the current along with other debris to narrow, shallow, heavily silted areas by the bridge; the result is a massive logjam, estimated to stretch several miles, and in heavy rain, this causes flooding of the bridge, highway, and surrounding farmland; and

WHEREAS, The bridge, built in 1963, was raised a decade ago, but today the aging structure is in even more dire need of attention; around the bridge, deep silt has left the waterway unnavigable, leading to both environmental and safety concerns; and

WHEREAS, Multiple entities will need to work together to effect a solution; while the Texas Department of Transportation can work on bridge improvements, the logjam is located mostly on federal property under the jurisdiction of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, although some private property is affected as well; and

WHEREAS, The problems caused by the obstruction of the South Sulphur River at the FM 71 bridge will only worsen without remedial action, and swift attention is necessary to address the situation before it deteriorates further; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Department of Transportation, and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers be urged to take aggressive action regarding the obstruction of the South Sulphur River in order to alleviate flooding and environmental hazards.

Bob Hall

Bob Hall
State Senator
District 2

Reggie Smith

Reggie Smith
State Representative
District 62

