



## For Immediate Release

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Contact: Jarrel Wade | 918.200.2340 | [jwade@tulsacounty.org](mailto:jwade@tulsacounty.org)

## Tulsa County allocates \$1.3 million to improve Jenks Levee

Tulsa County Commissioners approved a \$1.3 million project to improve the Jenks Levee through American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding Monday. The project will increase the height of the levees to increase the additional protection beyond the 100-year-flood plain.

“This project will ensure flood protection for Jenks homes and businesses beyond the flooding we experienced in 2019,” said Tulsa County Commission Chairman Stan Sallee. “Tulsa County is committed fully to levee rehabilitation. Levees are often forgotten in communities where they protect homes, businesses, water quality and much more. In Tulsa County, we owe special thanks to Commissioner Karen Keith and U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe, who have long kept our focus on this aging infrastructure.”

After the 2019 flooding, the Federal Emergency Management Agency reviewed all levees and informed Tulsa County that the Jenks Levee needed additional height above the 100-year-flood level. The 7.8-mile Jenks Levee, which is Tulsa County’s direct responsibility, is high enough currently to protect against the 100-year-flood level. However, federal standards require additional freeboard, or protection height above the 100-year-flood level.

“If it wasn’t clear before the spring 2019 floods, Tulsa residents are very aware now that the 100-year-flood could be tomorrow, and flood preparation needs to begin today,” said Commissioner Karen Keith. “I’m thrilled that my fellow Commissioners and I get to build onto these important levees. It pained me to see homes and businesses under water in 2019, but the fact that so many more stayed dry is testament to the incredible value our levees provide year after year.”

The project will add compacted soil lifts, raising the height of the levee several feet. Tulsa County will put the project out for bid by the end of the year and expects to begin construction in early 2022 with completion by the end of the year.

“Protecting residents, infrastructure and economic investment are three basic tenets of public service,” said Commissioner Ron Peters. “It’s rare and exciting that we get to do all three with a single project.”

Tulsa County received the first of two ARP annual funding installments May 25. In total, Tulsa County will receive \$126.5 million through 2022.

Tulsa County established five priorities for ARP funding:

- Respond to COVID-19;
- Support economic recovery and development;
- Generate equity in underserved populations and communities;
- Build infrastructure, and
- Replace lost revenue.

To date, Tulsa County has approved \$14.2 million, or 11%.

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