

trying to cope. Until the carrying capacity of Clear Creek is improved by channel rectification and enlargement to allow flood waters to recede into Galveston Bay and the Gulf of Mexico this major metropolitan development will face a continuing health hazard.

The proposed plan of improvement consists entirely of channel enlargement and rectification in a 31 mile reach of Clear Creek. Benefits will accrue to the cities of Houston, League City, Pearland, Friendswood, Brookside Village and Webster. With the exception of Houston, these are all presently small towns or villages lying within the 250 square mile watershed. It is estimated that the average annual damages from flooding of the stream under existing conditions amount to \$578,000. The first cost of the improvements, without interest during construction, will be \$18,900,000. Federal share would be \$12,600,000 and the non-Federal would be \$6,300,000. The total annual charges would be \$742,000 of which \$454,600 would be the Federal share, and \$287,400 would be non-Federal. The average annual benefits would be \$2,127,500, giving a benefit-cost ratio of 2.87 to 1.

May we point out that the monetary values shown in these cost estimates could not include the reduction of health hazards, which could well be one of the principal benefits derived.

RECOMMENDATION

The State of Texas can, therefore, without reservation recommend the authorization and early implementation of improvements in flood conditions in Clear Creek.

Mr. JONES. The next project is Pecan Bayou watershed, Texas.

PECAN BAYOU, TEX.

Colonel SHAFFER. Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, this report is concerned with the flood control and related water resources problems in the Pecan Bayou watershed, Texas, in response to a resolution by the House Flood Control Committee.

Pecan Bayou is a tributary of the Colorado River and drains an area of 2,200 square miles in the central part of Texas. Federal flood control improvements in the watershed include the existing Hords Creek Dam and Reservoir and the authorized enlargement of Lake Brownwood Dam, a local water supply reservoir, for flood control and additional conservation storage.

Mr. JONES. The stream is running northwesterly, is it not?

Colonel SHAFFER. Yes, sir; though it flows South.

Mr. JONES. Excuse me for interrupting you.

Colonel SHAFFER. Major floods originating on the Pecan Bayou watershed cause extensive flood damages to agricultural and urban properties in the flood plains of Pecan Bayou, its principal tributaries, and along the main stem of the Colorado River.

In addition, the existing Lake Brownwood Dam on Pecan Bayou upstream from Brownwood is considered inadequate to withstand an extreme flood and could fail under such flood conditions causing catastrophic damages to the downstream areas along Pecan Bayou including the city of Brownwood.

The Chief of Engineers recommends a plan of improvement for Pecan Bayou watershed in lieu of the authorized project for enlargement of Lake Brownwood, consisting of construction of protective measures for existing Lake Brownwood for purposes of flood control and water supply; channel improvements in the city of Brownwood; and construction of the Pecan Bayou Dam and Reservoir on Pecan Bayou upstream from Lake Brownwood.

The total estimated cost of the proposed improvements is \$31,543,000 of which \$24,861,000 is Federal and \$6,682,000 is non-Federal. The