



**US Army Corps  
of Engineers** ®  
Galveston District

# News Release

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## **Corps monitoring Addicks and Barker reservoirs**

The Galveston District Army Corps of Engineers is closely monitoring the Addicks and Barker reservoirs in light of the heavy rainfall on the west side of Houston. The reservoirs are performing exactly as they were designed to do, and that is to hold flood waters on the upper Buffalo Bayou watershed until they can safely be released through Houston. This has prevented additional flooding along Buffalo Bayou downstream of the dams.

“The Corps closed the gates at noon yesterday in anticipation of heavy rainfall, and we are not releasing water from the reservoirs at this time,” according to Richard Long, Operations Manager for the Addicks and Barker reservoirs.

“We will not release waters from the reservoirs until Buffalo Bayou has receded and there is sufficient room to accommodate the release,” he said. “Flooding downstream of the reservoir is a result of the rainfall below the dams.”

As the upstream flood waters continue to drain into the reservoirs, the Corps will continue to monitor the rising water for impacts on facilities within the projects, including State Highway 6 through Addicks Reservoir. The Corps will continue to stay in close communications with the Texas Department of Transportation to ensure that appropriate action is taken should Highway 6 become impacted.

“Public safety is the Corps’ number one priority, and we are working with the Harris County Flood Control District, Harris County Precinct 3, and all local agencies to ensure that all actions are closely coordinated,” Long added.

Addicks and Barker are part of a flood risk management system that helps to manage flood waters that may threaten downtown Houston and areas along Buffalo Bayou. In general, both reservoirs are capable of capturing rains associated with a 100-year storm event.