Edward Futterer

Sand mining adjacent to Natural Rivers inundates those rivers with additional sediment, severely contributing to higher flood risk downstream. Sand mining should be restricted to areas much further away from those rivers to avoid the addition of sand to flowing rivers, thus allowing the natural flow of those rivers and helping to reduce downstream flood risks.

For example, overflow of the East Fork of the San Jacinto River caused significant flooding in Kingwood Texas due to impeded flow caused in part by upstream sand mining. The Army Corp of Engineers dredged Lake Houston and the West Fork of the SanJacinto River to assist in improved flow. This action however will be futile if upstream sand mining causes sand to migrate downstream and fill up the dredged areas. Additionally,

Upstream overflow from decreased upstream width and flow of the West and East Fork of the San Jacinto River caused by sand mining resulted in floodwaters entering Kingwood from Tropical Storm Harvey in 2017 and more recently May 2024.

Actions downstream to improve flow, such as improved Lake Houston Dam Gates, cannot help to avoid flooding of upstream areas, primarily attributable to narrow pathways through the East and West Fork of the San Jacinto River. Those pathways are further constricted by sand entering those waterways. Sand mining significantly contributes to this flooding problem.

Thank you for considering these comments