Following the Money in Houston post-Hurricane Harvey

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CEER is a collaboration that raises awareness of the connection between pollution, place, and the public’s health.
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[Logos of various organizations]
Equity in Flood Infrastructure Spending

• August 2018 – One year anniversary of Harvey: Harris County voters overwhelmingly approve a $2.5 billion bond to fund over 230 flood mitigation projects. The language of the bond called for Commissioners Court to determine a process of “an equitable distribution of resources”

• November 2018 – Elections result in a new Judge for Harris County
The Push Back

• January – March 2019: Harris County Flood Control District presents draft prioritization framework and receives push back on equity language
HOUSTON (FOX 26) — A week has passed since FOX 26 News reported emerging fears that Harris County was proposing criteria for funding flood protection projects that would favor some low-income neighborhoods.

Those protests came from a Congressman, a Harris County Commissioner, a local mayor and the Lake Houston Chamber of Commerce.

Houston City Council member Dave Martin called the proposed "equity" component for distributing the $2.5 billion local bond dollars "social engineering" which ignores the pledge of "worst first."
Bigger than the sum of its parts

- Texas Organizing Project
- Bayou City Waterkeeper
- Texas Southern University
- Texas Housers
- HOME Coalition
A New Day for Harris County
Harris Thrives Resolution Components:

• Equity in Flood Mitigation Project Prioritization
• Use of CDC’s Social Vulnerability Index to understand impacts to infrastructure and humans
• Comprehensive approach that solves for multiple problems and requires multiple County departments to engage
• Nature based solutions
• Re-imagine a Harris County Flood Control District Community Task Force that is representative of the full County
Disaster Capitalism & Communities