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News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Taylor County issues Disaster Declaration to cover cost of area flooding

MONITORING OF LAKES AND CREEKS CONTINUES, 740+ SANDBAGS SUPPLIED TO RESIDENTS

The City of Abilene will be included in a Disaster Declaration issued by Taylor County Friday, October 19, 2018. The Declaration will date from October 7, 2018 and can carry into the coming days as conditions warrant.

By issuing a Disaster Declaration, Taylor County and the City of Abilene will be eligible for funding from the state and federal government to recoup costs associated with our current flooding event as it relates to flooding across Texas. Those costs can include items like overtime pay for first responders and personnel, to roadway clearing and repair.

Thursday afternoon Lake Abilene breached its spillway, causing water to flow at an increased rate into Elm Creek. As of mid-Friday morning, reporting information sites show the water flow at Lake Abilene's spillway and along Elm Creek to be stabilizing.

Emergency Management Coordinator Jim Bryan explains that water flowing from Lake Abilene into Elm Creek generally takes between 12 to 18 hours to reach the City of Abilene. Bryan and his team continue to keep a close eye on lake and creek levels as they will be affected by rainfall forecasted Friday and the weekend.

According to Global Samaritan Resources Executive Director Michael Bob Starr, as of Friday morning, at least 740 sandbags have been distributed to residents. A total of 5,000 were made available Thursday, and remaining sandbags will continue to be available until 6:30 p.m. Friday at Global Samaritan Resources (2074 North 1st Street).

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