For the purpose of expediting project reviews and, in-turn, authorizing use of funds, the General Land Office (GLO) has established a series of elements and information for applicants to provide. Recognizing that no two projects or communities are identical, the GLO takes into consideration as much information as possible such that the determinative factors differ between projects. In addition, the GLO encourages applicants to provide other relevant information which reflects an understanding of the community and supports approval of a project. Likewise, in the interest of preventing delays or subsequent withdrawal of approval due to unforeseen issues, applicants should be candid in describing negative features or concerns so that GLO staff can assess and address them accordingly. Absence or presence of a positive or negative element in a location will not by itself determine an outcome and a more thorough provision of information will result in a faster review.

Tier I: "Hard Data"

Census data – Demographic information by census block group for the town/county. This may be presented as maps and/or in chart/table form with block groups identified. Include percent of population below poverty level, income, and ethnicity/race.

Crime rates – Include immediate and surrounding geographic areas.

Other information – Household sizes, age group data, and/or other relevant factors are recommended.

Tier II: Community Features

Positive Features

Provide distance to each and public transportation time to site if applicable:

Jobs – Identify any large employment center(s)/opportunities.

Schools – Quality measures and demographics as compared to other area public schools.

Other education – Community colleges, technical schools, higher education, other opportunities.

Grocery stores – Identify nearest full-size grocery store(s), other desirable retail.

Health care facilities – Local clinic(s) and/or nearest hospital, e.g.

Public transportation – Nearest bus stop(s). [NOTE: State if no public transportation in community]

Library – Public library and available resources such as computer access.

Parks, athletic fields, playgrounds – Public recreation areas.

Community facilities – Child care, senior centers, other community centers.

Other – May include features unique to the community.

Proximity to Negative Features:

Provide distance to each.

Negative uses – Unsightly facilities, industrial sites, e.g.

Environmental/health hazards – May overlap with negative uses

Features undesirable for family life - Retail/business density, type of retail/businesses, e.g.

Additional subsidized or low-income housing – Public housing and/or LIHTC developments, etc.

Other – May include features unique to the community

Tier III: Trends/Other Plans or Projects

Area revitalization – Identify economic trends in the area

Government plans impacting the area – Identify pending or approved projects/plans/bonds, e.g. Other development projects/investment – Identify public or private projects in the immediate or larger area which may affect the proposed project

Please note that GLO staff recognizes the impact of Hurricane Harvey as a negative economic trend for all affected areas; this entry is an opportunity to cite specific changes taking place because of or in spite of the disaster.