



PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST

BOARD DATE: May 11, 2026

PRESENTED BY: Kathy Hopkins

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider approving by resolution an application from Cameron County and authorizing the Executive Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts for grant funding in an amount not to exceed \$1,200,000 from the Flood Infrastructure Fund for Flood Mitigation Strategy (FMS) related projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

☒ Approve ☐ No Action

PROJECT NAME

LRGV Regional Flood Early Warning System: Planning, Deployment, Operation & Maintenance, Project Identifier 40211

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) is to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects recommended in the state flood plan, including planning and design activities, work to obtain necessary regulatory approvals, and construction and/or implementation of flood projects. FIF projects presented for consideration have been scored and ranked using prioritization criteria outlined in 31 Texas Administrative Code § 363.404 and further specified in the 2024-2025 Flood Intended Use Plan (FIUP). The FMS prioritized list of projects was approved by the Board on September 12, 2024.

PROJECT NEED AND DESCRIPTION

The Lower Rio Grande Valley (LRGV) is highly vulnerable to flood events due to its coastal location and low elevation. Cameron County (County) is proposing the development of a comprehensive Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) to improve flood monitoring, forecasting, and emergency response capabilities within the County. This project is consistent with and supports the priorities identified in the 2023 Regional Flood Planning Group 15 Amended Regional Flood Plan.

The proposed FEWS will leverage monitoring infrastructure, hydrologic and hydraulic modeling data, and data collection efforts previously developed throughout Cameron, Hidalgo, and Willacy counties. By integrating the proposed project with existing assets into a unified, operational system, the project promotes regional coordination and maximizes the value of previous efforts. FEWS are critical and essential tools for reducing flood-related impacts, enhancing public safety, and supporting informed decision-making by Texas communities.

In support of this effort, the County is requesting funding for a total of 18 flood monitoring stations. Eight of these stations have already been installed within the project area but are not yet fully commissioned or operational. This request includes funding to complete the commissioning, integration, and activation of those existing flood monitoring stations, and of other stations installed under other projects that are not yet fully commissioned or

operational, as well as providing ten additional monitoring stations and capacity to ensure the FEWS is fully functional as envisioned in the regional flood plan.

KEY ISSUES

This project is an FMS in the adopted 2024 State Flood Plan. The FMS category is designed for projects that can be implemented quickly and are understood to be immediately effective in protecting life and property. FMS projects are eligible to receive a maximum of 70 percent grant funds based on criteria outlined in the FIUP. Recipients of financial assistance may either use their own available funds or borrow FIF funds (at zero percent interest) for any portion of the remaining project cost beyond what is paid for by the grant.

The County's project is eligible to receive up to 40 percent grant. The remaining project cost will be provided through an in-kind contribution. Table 1 provides a summary of funding sources. The application summaries are attached.

PROPOSED PROJECT FUNDING

TOTAL PROJECT COST	\$3,000,000
Grant amount requested from FIF	\$1,200,000
Loan amount requested from FIF	\$0
Local contribution	\$0
Local in-kind	\$1,800,000

PROJECT SCHEDULE

TASK	Schedule Date
Closing	August 30, 2026
Start of Planning Phase	October 1, 2026
Start of Design Phase	October 21, 2026
Start of Construction	October 21, 2027
Construction Completion	October 21, 2028

LEGAL/SPECIAL CONDITIONS

Prior to closing, Cameron County shall execute a Grant Agreement in a form and substance acceptable to the Executive Administrator.

Before beginning construction of the Project, the County must submit a Preliminary Engineering Feasibility Report (PEFR), signed and sealed by a professional engineer registered in the State of Texas. (31 TAC § 363.13)

Attachments:

1. Project Data Summary
2. Resolution (26-)
3. Location Map

Cameron County – Project Data Summary



Project Data Summary

Responsible Authority	Cameron County
Program	FIF
Commitment Number	G1002266
Project Number	40211
List Year	2024
Type of Pledge	N/A
Pledge Level (if applicable)	N/A
Legal Description	\$1,200,000 Cameron County Grant Agreement
Tax-exempt or Taxable	N/A
Refinance	No
Outlay Requirement	Yes
Disbursement Method	Escrow
Outlay Type	Outlay = Escrow Release
Qualifies as Disadvantaged	No
Financial Managerial & Technical Complete	N/A
Phases Funded	Planning, Design, and Construction
Pre-Design	Yes
Project Consistent with State Water Plan	N/A
Water Conservation Plan	N/A
Overall Risk Score	NA

PROJECT TEAM

Team Manager	Financial Analyst	Engineering Reviewer	Environmental Reviewer	Attorney
Kathy Hopkins	Rand Zeolla	Caleb Rodriguez	Chris Caran	Michael Perez

A RESOLUTION OF THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD
APPROVING AN APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$1,200,000 TO THE CAMERON COUNTY
FROM THE FLOOD INFRASTRUCTURE FUND
THROUGH THE EXECUTION OF A GRANT AGREEMENT IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$1,200,000

(26 -)

Recitals:

Cameron County (County), Texas, has filed an application for financial assistance from the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) in accordance with Texas Water Code Chapter 15, Subchapter I, to finance the planning, design, and construction a flood project, identified as Project No. 40211.

The County seeks financial assistance from the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) in the amount of \$1,200,000 through execution of a Grant Agreement, as is more specifically set forth in the application and in recommendations of the Executive Administrator's staff.

The County will provide a local share of \$1,800,000 in the form of in-kind services.

Findings:

1. The application and financial assistance requested meet the requirements of Texas Water Code, Chapter 15, Subchapter I; 31 TAC Chapter 363, Subchapters A and D; and the State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Flood Intended Use Plan (FIUP).
2. The County has demonstrated a sufficient level of cooperation among eligible political subdivisions and has included all of the eligible political subdivisions substantially affected by the flood project in accordance with Texas Water Code § 15.536(2).
3. No debt obligations are to be assumed by the County for the financial assistance, and no taxes or revenues are required to be pledged by the County in accordance with Texas Water Code § 15.536(3).
4. The County is eligible to receive grant funding in accordance with Texas Water Code § 15.534 and the FIUP.
5. The request for financial assistance does not include redundant funding for activities already performed and/or funded through another source, in accordance with the FIUP.
6. The County has demonstrated that the application meets the requirements of the FIUP related to the National Flood Insurance Program in the area to be served by the Project.

7. The Project was developed using the best and most recent available data, in accordance with the FIUP.
8. The County has documented that it has planned for operations and maintenance costs associated with the Project, in accordance with the FIUP.
9. The County has considered possible floodwater capture techniques that could be associated with the Project for water supply purposes, in accordance with the FIUP.

NOW THEREFORE, based on these findings, the TWDB resolves as follows:

A commitment is made by the TWDB to Cameron County for financial assistance in the amount of \$1,200,000 from the Flood Infrastructure Fund, to be evidenced by execution of a Grant Agreement in the amount of \$1,200,000. This commitment will expire on August 31, 2026; however, the Executive Administrator may, at his discretion, grant up to one extension for a maximum of three months.

The commitment is conditioned as follows:

Standard Conditions:

1. This commitment is contingent on availability of TWDB funds on hand.
2. This commitment is contingent upon the County's continued compliance with all applicable laws, rules, policies, and guidance, as these may be amended from time to time to adapt to a change in law, in circumstances, or any other legal requirement, including but not limited to 31 TAC Chapter 363.
3. The County must immediately notify TWDB, in writing, of any suit against it by the Attorney General of Texas under Texas Penal Code § 1.10(f) (related to federal laws regulating firearms, firearm accessories, and firearm ammunition).
4. The Grant Agreement must provide that the County will comply with all applicable TWDB laws and rules related to the use of the financial assistance.
5. The Grant Agreement must provide that the County must comply with all conditions as specified in the final environmental finding of the Executive Administrator when issued, including the standard emergency discovery conditions for threatened and endangered species and cultural resources.
6. The Grant Agreement must provide that the County will not begin construction for a portion of the Project until the environmental finding has been issued for that portion of the Project.
7. The Grant Agreement must contain a provision requiring the County to maintain insurance coverage sufficient to protect the TWDB's interest in the project.

8. The Grant Agreement must include a provision requiring a final accounting to be made of the total sources and authorized use of Project funds within 60 days of the completion of the Project.
9. The Grant Agreement must include a provision stating that the County must return any grant funds determined to be surplus funds remaining after completion of the Project and completion of a final accounting, including any interest earned on the grant funds.
10. The Grant Agreement must contain a provision that the TWDB may exercise all remedies available to it in law or equity, and any provision of the Obligations that restricts or limits the TWDB's full exercise of these remedies shall be of no force and effect.
11. Financial assistance proceeds are public funds and, as such, the Obligations must include a provision requiring that these proceeds must be held at a designated state depository institution or other properly chartered and authorized institution in accordance with the Public Funds Investment Act, Government Code, Chapter 2256 and the Public Funds Collateral Act, Government Code, Chapter 2257.
12. Financial assistance proceeds must not be used by the County when sampling, testing, removing or disposing of contaminated soils and/or media at the Project site. The Grant Agreement must include an environmental indemnification provision wherein the County agrees to indemnify, hold harmless and protect the TWDB from any and all claims, causes of action or damages to the person or property of third parties arising from the sampling, analysis, transport, storage, treatment, recycling, and disposition of any contaminated sewage sludge, contaminated sediments, and/or contaminated media that may be generated by the County, its contractors, consultants, agents, officials, and employees as a result of activities relating to the Project to the extent permitted by law.
13. The Grant Agreement must contain a provision stating that the County must abide by all applicable construction contract requirements related to the use of iron and steel products produced in the United States, as required by Texas Government Code, Chapter 2252, Subchapter G.
14. Before release of funds for the relevant services, and if required under the TWDB's financial assistance program and if not previously provided with the application, the County must submit executed contracts for engineering and, if applicable, financial advisor and bond counsel, for the Project that are satisfactory to the Executive Administrator. Fees to be reimbursed under the contracts must be reasonable in relation to the services performed, reflected in the contract, and acceptable to the Executive Administrator.
15. Before release of funds for construction, the County must provide the TWDB with evidence that the necessary acquisitions of land, leases, easements, and rights-of-way have been completed, or that the County has the legal authority necessary to

complete the acquisitions.

16. The Grant Agreement must contain a provision requiring the County to submit quarterly status reports on the progress of the project that details information requested by the Executive Administrator. The Executive Administrator may withhold authorization to release funds from escrow or adjust the amount of funds to be released from escrow based on the receipt of the quarterly status reports and the projected quarterly needs for the project.
17. Before closing, when any portion of financial assistance is to be held in escrow or in trust, the County must execute an escrow agreement or trust agreement, approved as to form and substance by the Executive Administrator, and must submit that executed agreement to the TWDB.

Special Conditions:

18. Before closing, the County must execute a Grant Agreement in a form and substance acceptable to the Executive Administrator.
19. Before beginning construction of the Project, the County must submit the information listed in 31 TAC § 363.13, signed and sealed by a professional engineer registered in the State of Texas.

APPROVED and ordered of record this, the 11th day of May, 2026.

TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman

DATE SIGNED: _____

ATTEST:

Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

Cameron County – Location Map



Cameron County

