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AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: May 11, 2026

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator
Ashley Harden, General Counsel
Matt Nelson, Deputy Executive Administrator, Planning
Reem Zoun, Assistant Deputy Executive Administrator, Planning

FROM: Tressa Olsen, CFM, Assistant Director, Flood Planning
Kevin Wessels, Manager, Regional Flood Planning

SUBJECT: Region 15 Lower Rio Grande 2023 Regional Flood Plan Third Amendment

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider approving the Third Amended 2023 Regional Flood Plan for Region 15 Lower Rio Grande.

BACKGROUND

In accordance with §16.061 of the Texas Water Code (TWC), the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) must develop and adopt a comprehensive state flood plan every five years that incorporates the 15 regional flood plans developed and approved by each regional flood planning group (RFPG). RFPGs are required to submit their adopted regional flood plans for approval every five years pursuant to TWC §16.062 and 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §361.50.

In accordance with TWC §16.062, TWDB must consider approval of submitted regional flood plans and may approve only after it has determined that the plan:

1. Satisfies the requirements for regional flood plans adopted in the guidance principles;
2. Adequately provides for the preservation of life and property and the development of water supply sources, where applicable; and
3. Does not negatively affect a neighboring area.

The final 2023 Regional Flood Plans were originally submitted to TWDB by the statutory deadline of January 10, 2023. Due to the highly compressed timeframe in which the first-ever regional flood plans were developed, and the desire to provide RFPGs with the

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greatest opportunity to incorporate Flood Infrastructure Fund-eligible flood mitigation solutions, the RFPGs were given approximately an additional 6 months and funding to amend their regional plans with additional recommended flood risk reduction solutions. These amendments were submitted to TWDB on July 14, 2023, and approved by the Board with sufficient time to be incorporated directly into the initial adoption of the 2024 State Flood Plan.

The Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG submitted a second amendment to their 2023 Regional Flood Plan by April 1, 2025. This second amendment, along with those for Flood Planning Regions 1 and 3-14, were approved by the Board on March 31, 2026. Since that time, it was discovered that several Region 15 recommended flood management strategies (FMS) were erroneously missing inputs for non-recurring, non-capital costs, making them ineligible for the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF). The Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG convened on March 18, 2026, to adopt a third amendment to their 2023 Regional Flood Plan. The goal of this third amendment was to address these discrepancies to make the affected FMSs eligible for the State Fiscal Year (SFY) 26-27 FIF funding cycle.

In the third amendment to their 2023 Regional Flood Plan, the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG modified the type of cost for their FMSs. The amendment modifies 32 FMSs with a total FIF eligible cost of approximately \$1.6B.

Table 1 provides a summary of flood risk reduction solutions and estimated costs recommended in the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande second 2023 Regional Flood Plan Amendment and the result of modifications in the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande third 2023 Regional Flood Plan Amendment. Figure 1 shows the centroid locations of all recommended flood risk reduction solutions included in the third amendment.

Table 1. Summary of the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande recommended flood risk reduction solutions by type and their estimated costs¹

	2 nd amended 2023 RFP count	Additional 3 rd amendment count	New total count³	2 nd amended 2023 RFP cost	Additional 3 rd amendment cost	New total cost³	New total FIF eligible cost
FME	495	0	495	\$269.7M	\$0	\$269.7M	\$269.7M
FMP	106	0	106	\$1.3B	\$0	\$1.3B	\$1.3B
FMS with NRNC ³	86	32	118	\$145.0M ⁴	\$22.0M ⁴	\$167.0M ⁴	\$27.2M ³
FMS Others ⁵	35	-32	3	\$25.2M	\$-22.0M	\$3.3M	\$0
TOTAL	722	0	722	\$1.7B	\$0	\$1.7B	\$1.6B

¹All estimated costs are rounded.

²The original number of FMXs may have changed between the first and third amendments. "Total Rec" and "Total Cost" reflect all currently recommended flood risk reduction strategies which may not be the sum of "Original" and "New".

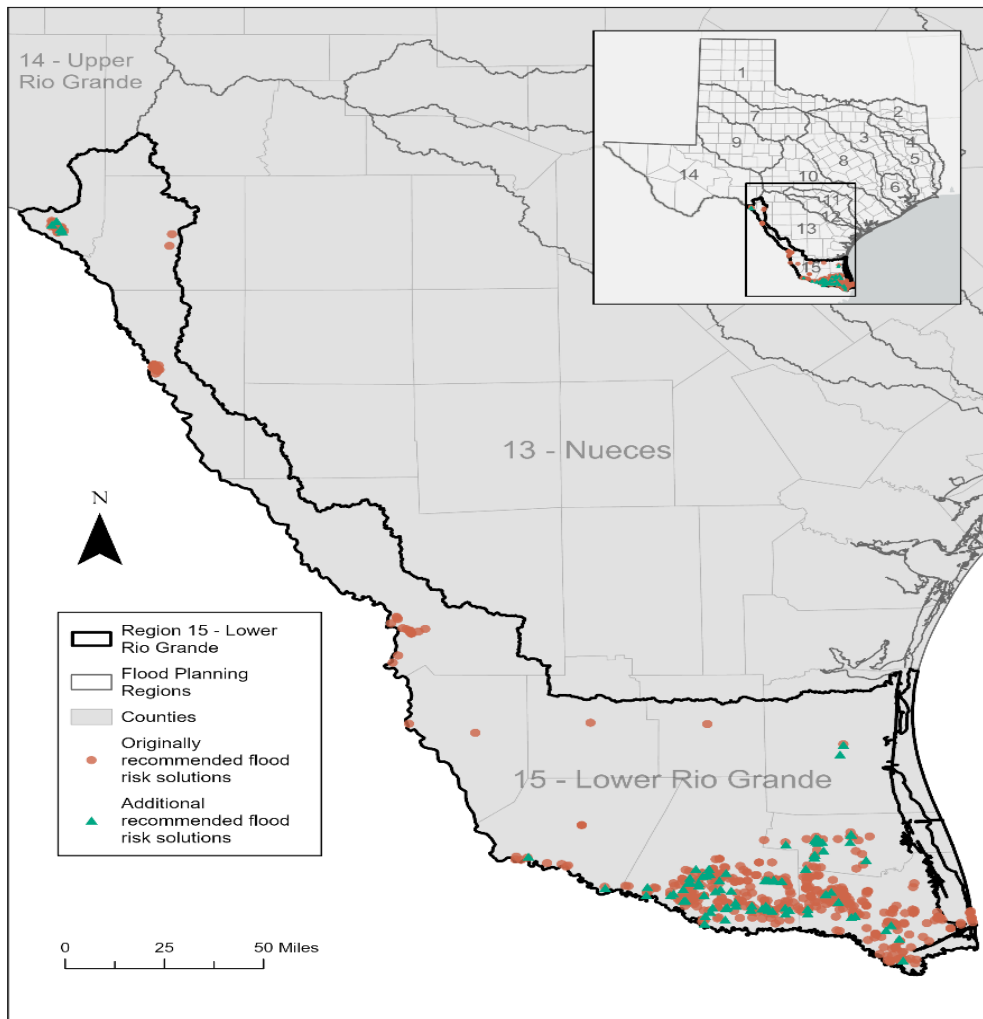
³NRNC = non-recurring, non-capital costs. Applicable only for FMS. Only NRNC portion of FMSs is eligible for FIF.

⁴Total Cost of an FMS = NRNC +total implementation cost, which may include non-recurring, non-capital costs.

Implementation cost of an FMS is not eligible for FIF since they do not meet 'no negative impact' and other requirements set for FMPs.

⁵FMS without NRNC.

Figure 1. Centroids of all recommended flood risk reduction solutions included in the third amended Region 15 Lower Rio Grande 2023 Regional Flood Plan.



DISCLAIMER: This map was generated by the Texas Water Development Board using GIS software. The map does not represent the full extent of the flood risk reduction boundaries, which may span parts of other flood planning regions. Rather, the symbols represent the center point of each solution. Date: 4/1/2026.

KEY ISSUES

A review has been conducted of the third amendment to the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande 2023 Regional Flood Plan that was submitted to correct errors in their previous amendment, and it has been determined that the amendment:

1. Has been adopted by the RFPG in accordance with 31 TAC §361.21 related to notice requirements;
2. Satisfies the requirements for regional flood plans adopted in the guidance principles, pursuant to TWC §16.062(h)(1);
3. Adequately provides for the preservation of life and property and the development of water supply sources, where applicable, pursuant to TWC §16.062(h)(2); and
4. Does not negatively affect a neighboring area, pursuant to TWC §16.062(h)(3).

Altogether, 2023 regional flood plans resulted in 5,168 recommended solutions to reduce the risks of flooding to people and property. The total estimated cost of all recommended flood risk reduction solutions (including those recommended in the second round of amendments and this third Region 15 Lower Rio Grande amendment) is approximately \$61.1 billion. A summary of all recommendations and estimated costs is provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Summary of count and estimated cost¹ of both previous and additional recommended flood risk reduction solutions associated with the 15 2023 Regional Flood Plans²

	2 nd amended 2023 RFP count	Additional 3 rd amendment count	New total count³	2 nd amended 2023 RFP cost	Additional 3 rd amendment cost	New total cost³	New total FIF eligible cost
FME	3,429	0	3,429	\$2.8B	\$0	\$2.8B	\$2.8B
FMP	753	0	753	\$55.4B	\$0	\$55.4B	\$55.4B
FMS with NRNC ⁴	831	32	863	3.0B ⁵	\$22.0M ⁵	3.0B⁵	\$362.5M ⁴
FMS Others ⁶	155	-32	123	\$40.8M	-\$22.0M	\$18.8M	\$0
TOTAL	5,168	0	5,168	\$61.1B	\$0	\$61.1B	\$58.6B

¹All estimated costs are rounded.

²Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress did not submit a second amended RFP and Regions 1 and 3-14 did not submit a third amended RFP; this summary table includes all recommended FMX to give an accurate representation of what will be included in the amended 2024 State Flood Plan as well as SFY 2026-2027 FIF eligibility.

³Some RFPs removed and modified FMXs as well as adding new ones. "Total count" and "New total cost" reflect all currently recommended flood risk reduction solutions which will not be the sum of "Original" and "Additional 2nd amendment."

⁴NRNC = non-recurring, non-capital costs. Applicable only for FMS. Only the NRNC portion of FMS cost is eligible for FIF.

⁵Total Cost of an FMS = NRNC +total implementation cost, which may include NRNC. Implementation cost of an FMS is not eligible for FIF since they do not meet 'no negative impact' and other requirements set for FMPs.

⁶FMS without NRNC.

It is anticipated that the number of recommended flood risk reduction solutions will continue to increase as the RFPs develop their 2028 plans. Upon approval of this third amended Region 15 Lower Rio Grande 2023 Regional Flood Plan, the Executive Administrator will continue the process of amending the 2024 State Flood Plan to incorporate all changes reflected in the second and third amendments.

RECOMMENDATION

The Executive Administrator recommends approval of the third amended Region 15 Lower Rio Grande 2023 Regional Flood Plan based on the determination that the plan complies with all applicable state statutes and rules.