



FIF FME PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST

BOARD DATE: August 6, 2026

Presented by: Chris Mercado

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider approving the selected flood management evaluation (FME) application and authorizing the Executive Administrator to negotiate and execute a contract for grant funding from the 2024-2025 Flood Infrastructure Fund cycle in an amount not to exceed \$379,000 for the following Ellis Prairie Soil and Water Conservation District project.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

☒ Approve ☐ No Action

BACKGROUND

Passed by the 86th Texas Legislature and approved by voters through a constitutional amendment, the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) was created to provide funding for flood mitigation projects. The purpose of the FIF, as outlined in Senate Bill 7, is to assist in financing drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects. FIF projects presented for consideration have been scored and ranked using prioritization criteria outlined in 31 Texas Administrative Code Section 363.404 and further specified in the Flood Intended Use Plan. The prioritized list of projects was approved by the Board in April 2025.

KEY ISSUES

The selected project is eligible under the FME Category of the 2024-2025 Flood Intended Use Plan. This category of funding was designed to conduct studies to identify, assess, and quantify flood risk or identify, evaluate, and recommend flood risk reduction solutions. This study involves planning of entire watersheds or sub-watersheds, as required by the TWDB regional flood planning program, to better inform the development of flood risk reduction solutions using structural and nonstructural measures. This may include determining and describing problems from or related to flooding, identifying, and planning solutions to flooding problems, and estimating the benefits and costs of these solutions. FMEs are eligible to receive a maximum of 100 percent grant funds based on criteria outlined in the 2024-25 Flood Intended Use Plan. Recipients of financial assistance may either use their own funds or borrow FIF funds at zero percent interest for any portion of the remaining project cost.

The applicant listed in Table 1 has submitted a complete financial assistance application and is eligible to receive grant funding through the FIF for a portion of their total project cost. The Applicant has pledged to contribute local funds to provide the remaining project costs, and no federal funds have been identified as a source by the applicant. Table 1 provides a summary of funding sources for this study, and an application summary is attached.

COMMITMENT PERIOD: THREE (3) MONTHS TO EXPIRE November 30, 2026; however, the Executive Administrator may, at his discretion, grant up to one extension for a maximum of three months.
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Table 1 - Summary of FME grant applications included in this project funding request

	Applicant name	Project name	Project #	Eligible grant (%)	Local share (\$)	In-kind services (\$)	FIF grant (\$)	FIF loan (\$)	Total project cost (\$)
1	Ellis Prairie Soil and Water Conservation District	Ellis County Dam Inundation Study	40237	50%	\$379,000	\$0	\$379,000	\$0	\$758,000
	Total				\$379,000	\$0	\$379,000	\$0	\$758,000

The project recommended for approval meets all minimum requirements found in the 2024-2025 Flood Intended Use Plan:

1. must be recommended in a regional flood plan as a Flood Management Evaluation (FME).
2. all activities are considered “flood control planning” as defined in Texas Water Code § 15.405;
3. the application does not include the actual preparation of a Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Maps;
4. the funding request does not include redundant funding;
5. that the application demonstrates a sufficient level of cooperation among eligible political subdivisions and includes all of the eligible political subdivisions substantially affected by the Project;
6. the area to be served by the project area must certify that they are currently enforcing the floodplain management standards at least equivalent to or exceeding the National Flood Insurance Program minimum standards, unless otherwise specified;
7. the project was developed using the best/most recent available data;

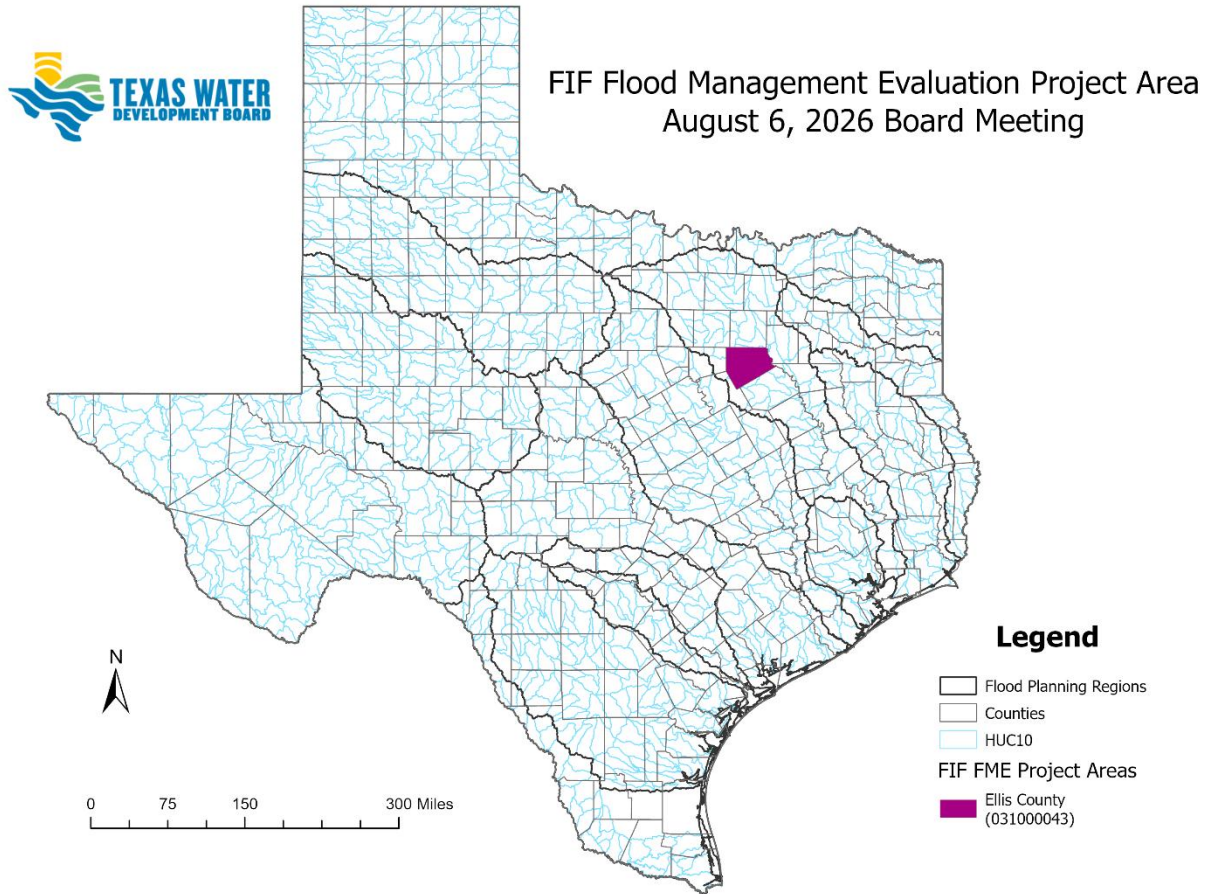
The selected project recommended for approval meets the statutory and rule requirements found in Texas Water Code Chapter 15 Subchapter F and 31 Texas Administrative Code Chapter 355, including:

1. that financial assistance is necessary for the applicants to carry out adequate flood control planning; and
2. that the applicant has notified all required entities of the application.

Attachments:

1. Project Summary Map of FIF FME Area
2. Ellis Prairie Soil and Water Conservation District Project Summary

Project Summary Map of FIF FME Areas



ELLIS PRAIRIE SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

PROJECT NAME Ellis County Dam Inundation Study, Project No. 40237

PROJECT NEED AND DESCRIPTION*Project Need*

Per Texas Administrative Code, §299.14, dams are to be classified “for hazard based on either potential loss of human life or property damage, in the event of failure or malfunction of the dam or appurtenant structures”. The project will develop breach analyses and update the emergency action plans for significant and high hazard dams in the interest of public safety in the event of a dam breach. In addition to evaluating the design flood capacity, hydrologic models are used to establish peak water surface elevations and reservoir inflow hydrographs, which are in turn utilized for performing the breach analysis and generating breach inundation mapping and Emergency Action Plans. The Ellis County Dam Inundation Study was recommended by the Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group (Region 3).

Project Description

The Ellis County Dam Inundation Study will include the development of hydrologic and hydraulic models to define dam inundation areas and emergency action plans for 40 high and significant hazard dams located in Ellis County. A total of 951.1 square miles will be included in the study area. A hydraulic model will be used to analyze downstream conditions from flows through a dam; either designed flows through a spillway or hypothetical flows resulting from an uncontrolled breach, or failure, of the dam. Hydraulic models are used to map inundation extents from a hypothetical breach of the dam. Inundation mapping is then used as a critical element of an Emergency Action Plan (EAP). TCEQ requires breach analyses and EAPs for all significant and high hazard dams. This study will utilize the design of flood peak water surface elevations and inflow hydrographs developed by the hydrologic models to perform the breach analysis and generate the breach inundation mapping. The breach models will evaluate the required breach scenarios.

Key project elements:

1. Project Management and Meetings
2. Data Collection: Collect and review existing data
3. Coordination with Regional Flood Planning Group (Region 3) and overlapping projects
4. Hydrologic Analysis: Complete hydrologic model analysis for 40 dams
5. Hydraulic Analysis: Complete 2-D hydraulic model analysis for 40 dams
6. Identification of Flood Problem Areas: Generate inundation boundaries to identify areas of high flood risk in the event of a dam failure
7. Community Outreach: Coordinate with communities within the study area and conduct public meetings
8. QC/Model Validation: Perform quality control and quality assurance
9. Reporting: Develop draft and final reports and emergency actions plans for all dams

Key project deliverables:

1. Updated hydrologic and hydraulic models
2. QA/QC Checklists
3. Inundation boundaries for dam breaches
4. Draft and final reports

5. Emergency Action Plans for all dams

PROPOSED PROJECT FUNDING

TOTAL STUDY COST	\$758,000
Amount requested from FIF	\$379,000
Local Contribution	\$379,000
Local in-kind	\$0
Federal funding	\$0

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Schedule Date
Closing	November 30, 2026
FME Completion	May 31, 2029

FINANCIAL

The funding being provided by the TWDB is in the form of 100 percent grant and therefore is not subject to our internal risk score analysis that is applied to loan. For this request, staff reviewed the entity's annual audit and funding application information to assess the entity's ability to manage existing obligations and business practices. Based on this analysis, staff believe the entity has adequate capabilities to manage its obligations.

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- Prior to closing, the entity shall execute a Grant Agreement in a form and substance acceptable to the Executive Administrator;
- Prior to closing, the entity must demonstrate its required local share listed in the table above, which may be provided through in-kind services with prior approval by the Executive Administrator;
- Prior to closing on any portion of financial assistance, the entity shall execute an escrow agreement or trust agreement, approved as to form and substance by the Executive Administrator, and shall submit that executed agreement to the TWDB; and
- Prior to closing, the entity must submit documentation evidencing that the area to be served by the Project has floodplain ordinances or orders, as applicable, in place, in accordance with the Flood Infrastructure Fund Intended Use Plan or must include in the scope of work that the applicant will work with any community within the project area, that does not meet minimum standard, towards adoption and enforcement of floodplain management ordinances or orders, as applicable, in accordance with the 2024-2025 Flood Intended Use Plan.



Ellis County

Ellis-Prairie Soil Water Conservation District

