



Regional Flood Planning Update

July 2025

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A Message from Reem Zoun, Assistant Deputy Executive Administrator

Dear Regional Flood Planning Stakeholders,

I am writing to you today with a heavy heart. The recent devastating flooding and the unimaginable loss of precious lives underscore the vital importance of our shared mission: to reduce the risk and impact of flooding across Texas. What can we do to make sure that we do not lose a single more life to flooding?

This newsletter includes updates that were composed prior to the recent flooding event. They are important for our flood planning process. Two are more recent updates, one is to add description of emergency needs and the second is to identify all existing flood early warning systems.

I want to take this opportunity to thank each of you for your ongoing dedication to developing the regional flood plans. Your efforts are essential to protecting lives and property throughout our great state. Please read the updates below and reach out to me or any member of the team with any questions or concerns.

Our prayers and deepest sympathies are with those affected by the recent flooding.

On behalf of your Flood Planning Team at the Texas Water Development Board,

Sincerely, Reem

TWDB Staff Updates: New Hires and Promotions

NEW State Flood Planner – Cynthia Nolasco

Cynthia Nolasco has been promoted to the Senior State Flood Planner role. Cynthia holds a bachelor's degree in Geography and a master's degree in Urban & Regional Planning from Texas A&M University. Cynthia joined the Texas Water Development Board in 2023 where she oversees flood planning efforts for three regions: Region 1 Canadian-Upper Red, Region 2 Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress, and Region 11 Guadalupe. Before joining the TWDB, Cynthia built a dynamic career in planning. Starting in local government as a Community & Economic Planner before diving into the private sector as a Hazard Mitigation Planner. When she's not Planning, you'll find her exploring the outdoors with her two pups, scouting the best restaurants with friends, or throwing punches in her boxing classes.

NEW Flood Management Evaluation Manager – Kelly Dillard

Kelly Dillard joined the TWDB in May as the Flood Management Evaluation Manager. The Flood Management Evaluation program will perform studies identified by the regional flood planning groups as part of their scope of work Task 5B – “Recommend a List of Flood Management Evaluations to be Performed by TWDB”. Kelly has a bachelor's degree in civil engineering from Texas A&M University. She is also an active member of Texas' Floodplain Managers Association and currently serves on their board as chair of the Training and Credentialing Committee. Kelly spent over 30 years on the consulting side of H&H engineering. Her focus was to assist municipal stormwater programs in addressing their drainage needs. Kelly currently lives in Fort Worth and plans to split time between Austin and Fort Worth. In their free time, she and her husband play with their two Australian Shepherds, Ruby & Pearl. They enjoy hiking, gardening, birding, discovering great local restaurants and traveling. They often visit their two kids: Katie, who lives in NYC, and Mason, who lives in Conway, Arkansas.

NEW Senior Data Analyst – Tim Harlow

Tim Harlow has been promoted to Data Analyst IV. He joined the TWDB in 2021 as an Environmental Reviewer and transitioned to a GIS Data Analyst role in Flood Planning in 2023. Tim began his career in environmental consulting before moving into state government. He holds a bachelor's degree in Environmental Science from Texas A&M University–Corpus Christi and a GIS certificate from Austin Community College. Outside of work, he enjoys rock climbing, playing music, and hanging out with his cat, Azzie.

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Regional and State Flood Plan Accolades

We are proud to share the recent achievements and recognitions awarded to our outstanding program, teams and projects:

2025 Tom Lee State Award for Excellence: The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is proud to announce that the **2024 Texas State Flood Plan** received the prestigious 2025 Tom Lee State Award for Excellence at the Association of State Floodplain Managers, Inc. annual conference in May. This national recognition highlights the hard work and dedication of countless professionals committed to reducing flood risk across the state.

Reem Zoun, who led this tremendous effort, accepted the award, in New Orleans, Louisiana, before an audience of 1,600 flood professionals from across the nation and around the world. Tressa Olsen and Angela Khong, part of the 2024 State Flood Plan development core team, were present at the award

event. This milestone underscores Texas’s commitment to proactive flood planning and resilience, ensuring safer communities and a stronger future.

2025 Agency of the Year Award: The TWDB was the recipient of the 2025 Agency of the Year Award at the 2025 Annual Texas Floodplain Management Association meeting in March. Reem Zoun proudly accepted the award at the annual meeting in Denton, Texas.

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Update on the Regional Flood Plan Amendments

The TWDB Flood Planning team received 14 Amended 2023 Region Flood Plans by the April 1, 2025 deadline. Plan review is still underway. Requests for information will be sent out to the RFPGs as soon as possible.

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In Case You Missed It:

Chairs’ Conference Call: The TWDB Regional Flood Planning staff hosted a [Chairs’ Conference Call](#) on Friday, May 30, 2025 at 9:00 AM. This call was moderated by Glenn Clingenpeel (Region 3 Trinity) who discussed methods of outreach and lessons learned from cycle 1. The next Chairs Call is TBD but will be scheduled in the coming weeks. Moving forward, we encourage all Chairs to attend and present on behalf of their regions.

Feedback Requested: Data Issues and Needs for Task 2B Future Conditions: On May 29, the TWDB requested feedback regarding the Future Condition Cursory Floodplain Data, particularly related to exiting development/ future land use and roughness and water surface elevation and change factor rasters. The deadline to submit comments was Friday, June 6, however if you have any concerns, please email floodplanning@twdb.texas.gov.

Technical Conference Call: The TWDB hosted a Technical Conference Call on June 25th at 1:00 PM for RFPG Chairs, Sponsors, and Technical Consultants. Agenda items included (1) aligning the 2029 State Flood Plan with the 28-29 FIF cycle; and (2) defining Emergency Need for the 2028 Regional Flood Plans. The recording and slides are available on our [website](#) under Conference Calls and Webinars.

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Administrative Updates

The TWDB has made minor changes to the Exhibit C Technical Guidelines, available now on our Second Cycle Planning Documents webpage. Modifications relate to Section 2.5.B, Task 5B – Recommend a list of Flood Management Evaluations to be performed by the TWDB:

1. Page 80: Added “Work performed under Task 5B is not contingent upon a written notice-to-proceed.”
2. Page 81: Added clarifying language regarding the requirement for FMEs in the list to be related to small/rural communities.

The changes above will allow RFPs to work on Task B without having to wait for completion/review of the technical memorandum.

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Recent 2nd Cycle Regional Flood Planning Data Updates:

Infrastructure Assessment Toolkit: The TWDB funded and guided the development of an Infrastructure Assessment Toolkit to assist with the assessment of the condition and functionality of major constructed flood infrastructure in Texas. [Infrastructure Assessment Classification Guidance](#): This document provides guidance on classifying the condition, functionality, and data confidence rating of constructed and natural flood infrastructure. [The Infrastructure Assessment Toolkit](#) is now available for download on the [second planning cycle documents webpage](#).

Cycle 2 Existing Conditions Cursory Floodplain Dataset: The updated Existing Conditions Cursory Floodplain dataset is now available for download on the [Data Hub \(https://twdb-flood-planning-resources-twdb.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cursory-floodplain-data-2025\)](https://twdb-flood-planning-resources-twdb.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cursory-floodplain-data-2025). This flood risk data includes complete, but approximate, flood risk coverage for Texas developed from statewide 2D hydrodynamic modeling data. The datasets are 3-meter resolution raster files that include probability frequencies of 20%, 10%, 1%, and 0.2% annual chance flood events (also known as 5-year, 10-year, 100-year and 500-year flood events, respectively).

Cycle 2 Future Conditions Cursory Floodplain Dataset and Final Report: We are pleased to provide you with the “Future Conditions” Cursory Floodplain (Year 2060) dataset and final report. Both are now available for download on the [Data Hub \(https://twdb-flood-planning-resources-twdb.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cursory-floodplain-data-2025\)](https://twdb-flood-planning-resources-twdb.hub.arcgis.com/pages/cursory-floodplain-data-2025).

The cursory floodplain dataset is developed with the best available dataset, certain assumptions and has limitations. It is anticipated that this Cursory Floodplain Data will be used for Regional Flood Plan development unless better suited data is available for a region and justification can be provided for the decision not to use it. RFPs can utilize better datasets or enhance the future conditions cursory floodplain datasets, with consistency, clearly documented assumptions and justification.

Terrain rasters for cursory flood risk information: As requested from several RFPs, we are pleased to provide you with terrain data developed by Fathom as part of Cursory Floodplain Phase 2 development, available for download now on our Flood Planning Data Hub (<https://twdb-flood-planning-resources-twdb.hub.arcgis.com/pages/terrain-datasets-for-texas>).

New Field: ‘FLD_AUTH for Entities’ feature class: The TWDB has added a new field to the Entities feature class to better distinguish between FMX sponsors and entities with flood-related authority that should be surveyed under Task 5. Please follow the instructions included in the email blast sent on 6/12/25 on how to update the feature class and populate the new field. The updated Entities shapefile is available for download on our Flood Planning Data Hub (<https://twdb-flood-planning-resources-twdb.hub.arcgis.com/pages/terrain-datasets-for-texas>).

New Field: ‘Emergency Need Description’ for FMX feature classes: In our efforts to better identify the emergency needs of flood risk reduction solutions, we are adding the Emergency Need Description field

(EMER_DESC) to the FME and FMS feature class. This field will be conditionally required for all FMX feature classes if EMER_NEED= "Yes".

New Valid Entry: "Flood Early Warning System" in ExFldInfraPol feature class: During the first planning cycle, TWDB received reporting on flood early warning system from one region. To emphasize the need to identify Early Warning Systems across Texas, they are being listed as an independent category in the existing infrastructure dataset. Early Warning System has been added as a new valid entry to the Infrastructure Type field (INFRA_TYPE) in the Existing Infrastructure Polygons feature class (ExFldInfraPol).

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Updates on the 2024-2025 Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF)

- On April 10, 2025, [the Board approved](#) the prioritization lists for FMEs and FMPs for the 24-25 FIF cycle.
- On April 30, 2025, the first round of formal invitations to apply were sent out for 17 FMEs and 2 FMPs.
- 'Intent to Apply' forms were received by the TWDB by May 14, 2025.
- Full applications for FMEs and FMPs were received by the TWDB by July 2, 2025. They are currently under review.

Future rounds of invitations to apply are tentative and dependent on available funding.

For questions about the FIF program, please email FIF@twdb.texas.gov or call Sara Sopczynski (FIF Program Coordinator) at 512-936-0852. For questions about any current FIF Category 1/FME, please contact Malcolm Hamilton at malcolm.hamilton@twdb.texas.gov.

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Recent RFPG Inquiries

Infrastructure Toolkit Q&A: We received several questions about the infrastructure toolkit and have posted a Q&A document under "TWDB Communications" on our [2nd Planning Cycle Documents webpage](#).

Notice to Proceed and Task 5: If the RFPG decides to open up the window to solicit new FMXs in the next few weeks and they feel strongly that they want to advance one or more of those newly received FMEs to an FMP, could the technical subcommittee obtain permission from TWDB to begin work on Task 5 to advance the selected FMEs to FMPs before the Tech Memo deadline?

TWDB Response: Per Exhibit C, work performed under Task 5A is contingent upon a written notice-to-proceed following review and approval of the technical memorandum. However, RFPGs may perform work under Task 4C to perform FMEs to identify and evaluate additional FMPs that may be recommended under Task 5. Note that while the RFPGs have flexibility in determining which identified FMEs should be performed under Task 4C, they should follow all requirements outlined under Tasks 4A and 5A, respectively.

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*For more information regarding the TWDB Regional Flood Planning Program, please visit [our website](#).
Note: This email was sent to all RFPG members, sponsors, and technical consultants.*

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