

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator
John T. Dupnik, P.G., Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Science & Conservation

FROM: Mindy M. Conyers, Ph.D., Natural Resources Specialist, Surface Water
Carla G. Guthrie, Ph.D., Director, Surface Water

DATE: July 12, 2018

SUBJECT: Briefing and discussion on the *Draft–State Flood Assessment*.

ACTION REQUESTED

No action is required by the Board. This item is a briefing on the future publication of the *Draft–State Flood Assessment* for public comment.

BACKGROUND

Texas regularly leads the nation as the state with the largest number of fatalities and financial losses due to floods. The 85th Texas Legislature approved an exceptional item directing the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to survey the more than 1,200 floodplain managers in the state and to gather information on flood mitigation projects and associated costs across Texas. Consistent with the intent of the Texas Legislature, the Executive Administrator began to develop this comprehensive assessment of existing programs, risks, and needs for floodplain management and mitigation across the state as reported at the March 1 board meeting. This effort seeks to obtain and communicate information that will be used to determine the need for and benefits of statewide flood planning and financial investment.

KEY ISSUES

Staff conducted extensive outreach throughout March and April to local, regional, state, and federal entities with flood-related responsibilities and offered opportunities for input and engagement through stakeholder workshops, one-on-one meetings, relevant conferences, communications posted online and distributed via TWDB’s social media platforms, and an online survey.

The online survey gathered information on: community-specific flood risks; current and planned flood mitigation, planning, and protection activities; financial needs tied to those

<p style="text-align: center;">Our Mission</p> <p>To provide leadership, information, education, and support for planning, financial assistance, and outreach for the conservation and responsible development of water for Texas</p>	<p>⋮</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>⋮</p> <p>⋮</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Board Members</p> <p>Peter M. Lake, Chairman Kathleen Jackson, Board Member Brooke T. Paup, Board Member</p> <p>Jeff Walker, Executive Administrator</p>
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activities; policy considerations; and, the future of flood planning in Texas. Approximately two-thirds of the 1,020 respondents to the initial survey were either floodplain administrators for communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program or public-sector representatives with flood-related responsibilities (30 percent and 40 percent, respectively). A second survey, sent to those who identified their willingness to provide more information, acquired supplemental details from 201 stakeholders.

Workshops were held in Arlington, Austin, Corpus Christi, El Paso, Houston, Lubbock, McAllen, and Nacogdoches where 268 Texans provided feedback through comment cards and station activities on flood risk mapping, funding programs, how flood planning might proceed in the state, and related topics.

Informed by the data gathered through these stakeholder engagement activities, staff are developing the *Draft-State Flood Assessment*, which will be posted for public comment at www.TexasFloodAssessment.com and on the TWDB's website. The Board will also hold a work session to accept public testimony on the document. Following consideration of public comments, the Executive Administrator will present a final version of the *State Flood Assessment* for consideration and adoption at a subsequent Board meeting in order to deliver a report to the Texas Legislature prior to the start of the 86th Legislative Session.

CONCLUSION

The Executive Administrator intends to publish the *Draft-State Flood Assessment* for public comment by the end of August 2018.