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AGENDA ITEM MEMO

BOARD MEETING DATE: January 16, 2025

TO: Board Members

THROUGH: Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator
Matt Nelson, Deputy Executive Administrator,
Office of Planning
Reem Zoun, P.E., CFM, Assistant Deputy Executive
Administrator, Office of Planning

FROM: Tressa Olsen, CFM, Assistant Director, Flood Planning,
Office of Planning

SUBJECT: Minor changes to the boundaries of select coastal Flood Planning Regions

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider the approval of minor changes to boundaries of select coastal flood planning regions: Region 3 Trinity; Region 5 Neches; Region 6 San Jacinto; Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca; Region 12 San Antonio; and Region 13 Nueces effective the beginning of the second flood planning cycle (2024-2028) to implement the flood planning requirements of Texas Administrative Code §361.11.

BACKGROUND

Senate Bill 8 of the 86th Legislature established the framework for the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to institute flood planning across the state. Texas Water Code §16.061 requires the TWDB to prepare and adopt a comprehensive state flood plan not later than September 1, 2024, and every five years after. Further, Texas Water Code §16.062 requires the TWDB to designate flood planning regions, designate representatives from each flood planning region to serve as the initial regional flood planning group, provide technical and financial support for the regional flood planning groups, and adopt guidance principles for regional and state flood planning.

The Board initially approved the designation of 15 flood planning regions to implement regional and state flood planning on April 9, 2020. In developing these proposed flood planning regions, coastal basins were combined with adjacent major river basins based on the potential to be influenced by inter-basin flooding, ongoing coastal management efforts, and the stream contribution to bays. Smaller river basins were combined with larger basins based on similar types of flooding, relatively small populations, and practical administrative constraints limiting the number of regions that can be adequately supported.

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Board Members

L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | Tonya R. Miller, Board Member
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

During the first cycle of regional flood planning, the TWDB became aware of some minor inconsistencies in geospatial boundaries affecting Regions 3 Trinity, 5 Neches, 6 San Jacinto, 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca, 12 San Antonio, and 13 Nueces. In an effort to refine the flood planning boundaries to be more logical and better aligned with river basins and watersheds, the TWDB proposed minor changes to the boundaries of the affected regions. Feedback on the proposed minor changes was solicited from the affected regional flood planning sponsors and chairs from November 18, 2024, through December 4, 2024. All affected regional flood planning sponsors and chairs agreed to the suggested changes without additional comments or concerns.

KEY ISSUES

Four minor changes to the previously approved flood planning region boundary map are proposed, affecting six flood planning regions:

- Reallocate the northeastern corner of Galveston Bay towards Lake Anahuac from Region 5 Neches to Region 3 Trinity (Attachment 1);
- Reallocate Red Fish Island, Texas City Dike, and portions of Atkinson Island from Region 5 Trinity to Region 6 San Jacinto (Attachment 1);
- Reallocate portions of Pelican Island from Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca to Region 12 San Antonio (Attachment 2); and
- Reallocate the northernmost portion of San Jose Island from Region 12 San Antonio to Region 13 Nueces (Attachment 3).

Overall, less than 2.5 square miles of the coastline will be reallocated among these six flood planning regions. TWDB does not anticipate any quantifiable or observable impact of this proposed minor boundary correction on the flood planning process of impacted regions 3, 5, 10, 12 or 13.

If approved, these changes will be considered effective starting at the beginning of the second flood planning cycle (2024-2028). Upon approval by the Board, the maps will be updated.

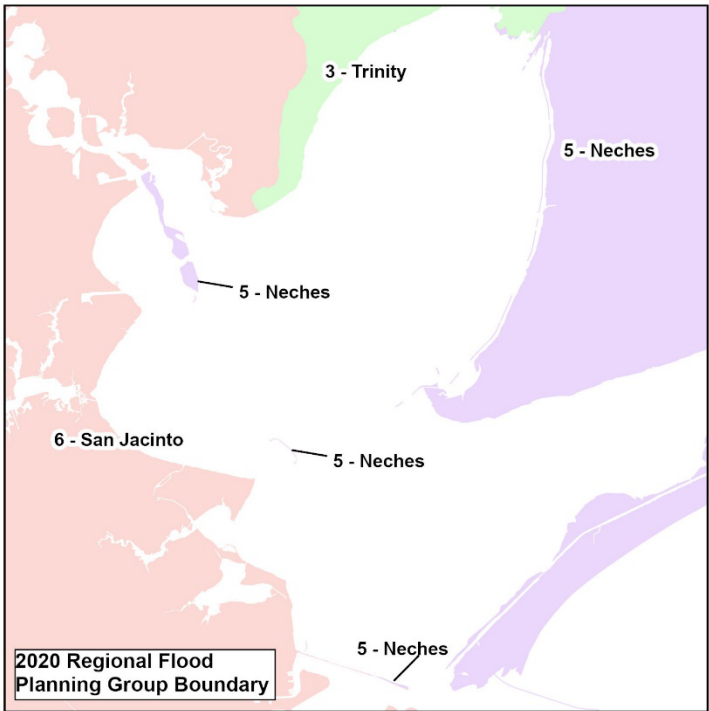
RECOMMENDATION

Approval of minor changes to flood planning region boundaries effective the beginning of the second flood planning cycle (2024-2028).

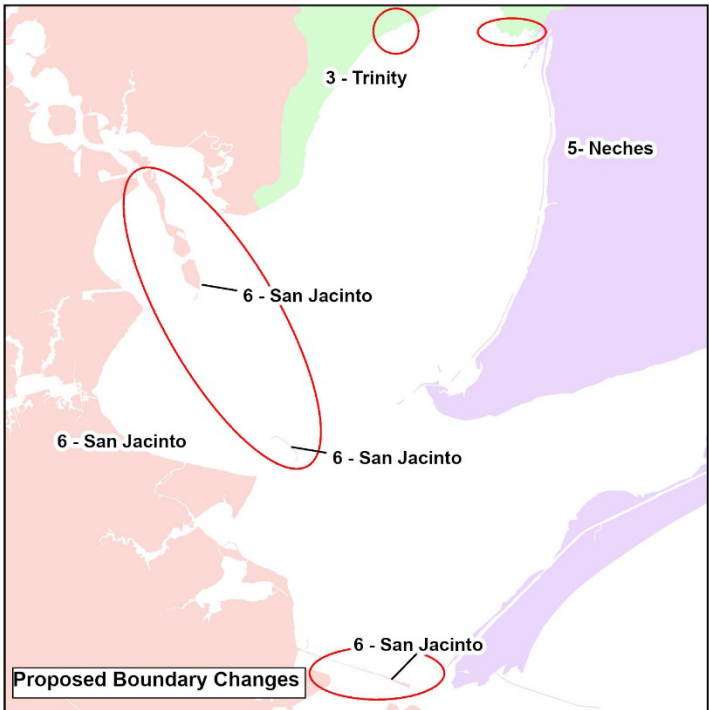
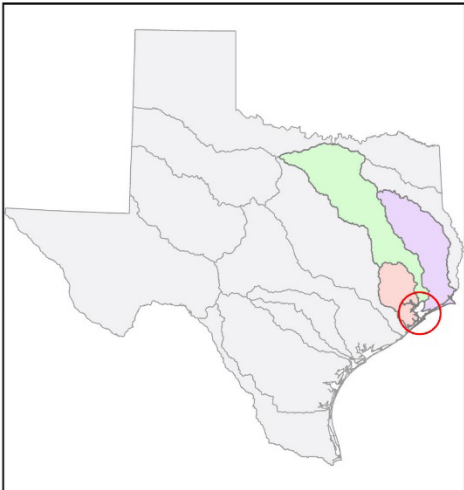
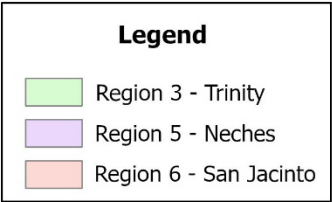
Attachment(s):

1. Recommended Changes to Flood Planning Regions 3, 5, 6
2. Recommended Changes to Flood Planning Regions 10,12
3. Recommended Changes to Flood Planning Regions 12,13

Attachment 1: Map - Recommended Changes to Flood Planning Regions 3, 5, 6



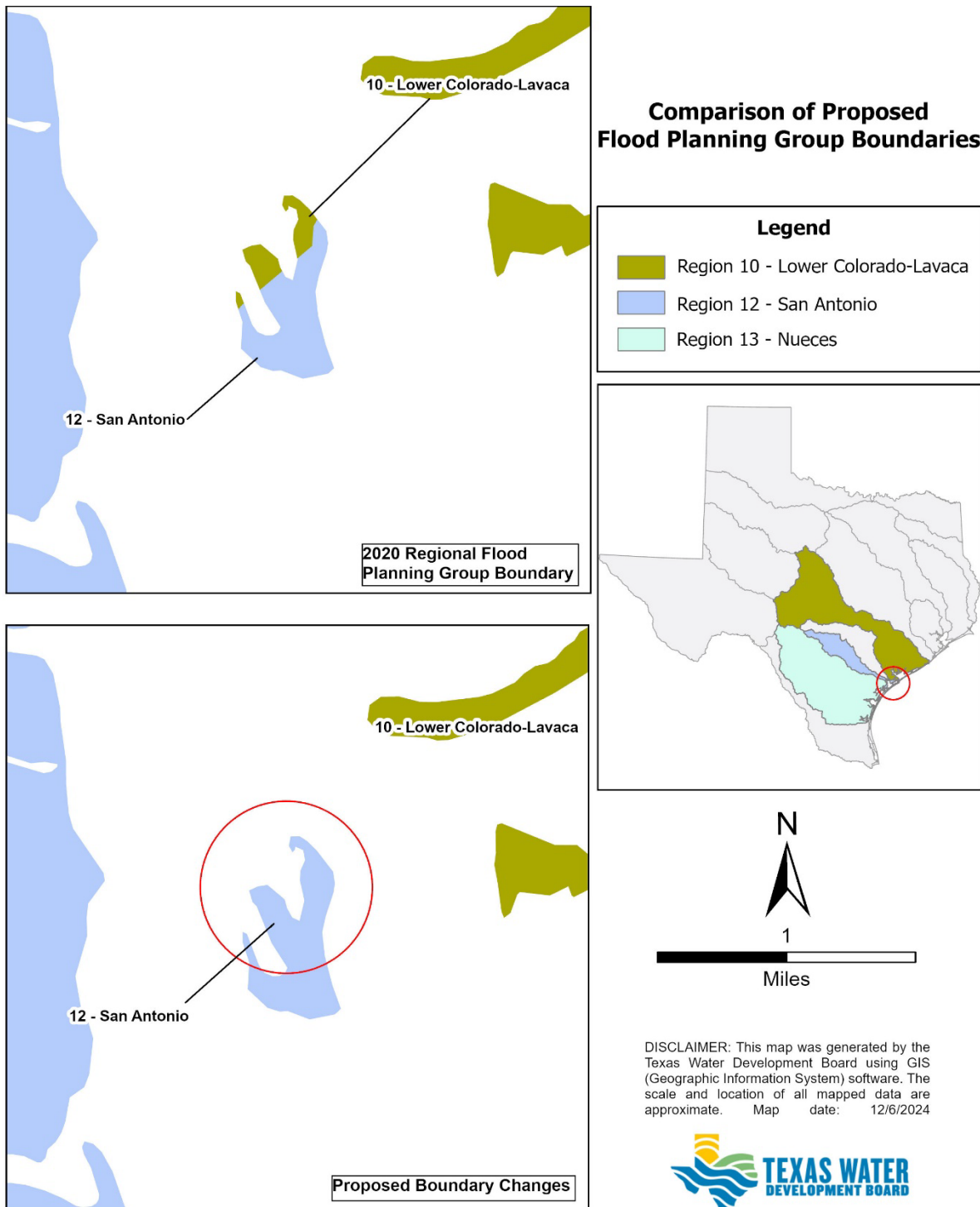
Comparison of Proposed Flood Planning Group Boundaries



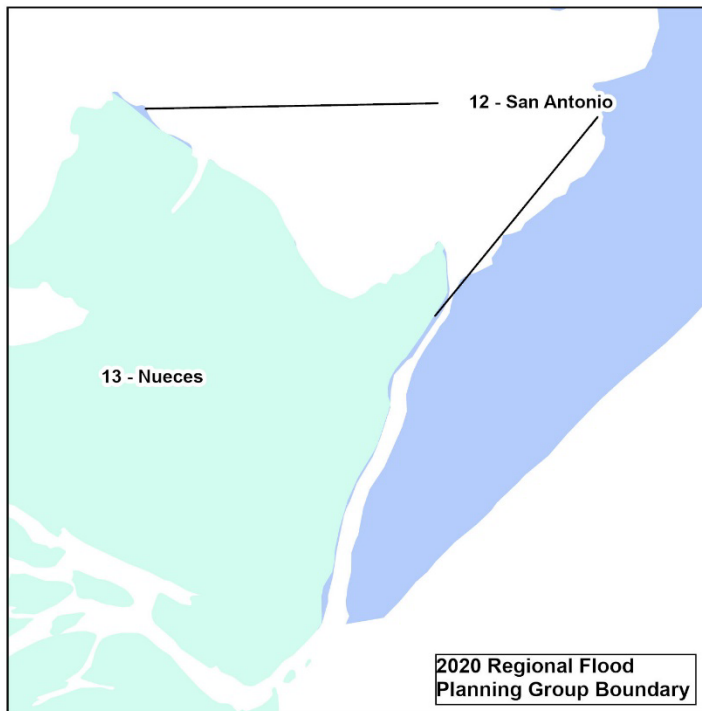
DISCLAIMER: This map was generated by the Texas Water Development Board using GIS (Geographic Information System) software. The scale and location of all mapped data are approximate. Map date: 12/6/2024



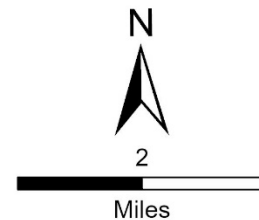
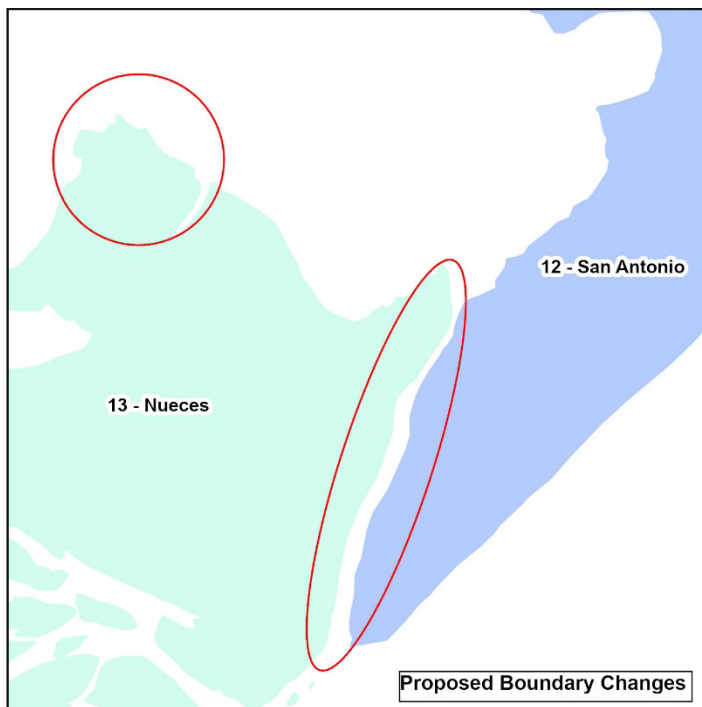
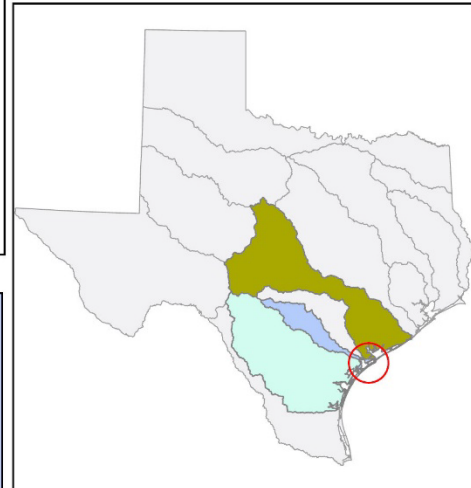
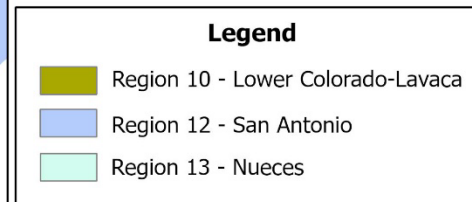
Attachment 2: Map - Recommended Changes to Flood Planning Regions 10, 12



Attachment 3: Map - Recommended Changes to Flood Planning Regions 12, 13



Comparison of Proposed Flood Planning Group Boundaries



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