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## AGENDA ITEM MEMO

**BOARD MEETING DATE:** December 16, 2025

**TO:** Board Members

**THROUGH:** Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator  
Ashley Harden, General Counsel

**FROM:** Sam Hermitte, Assistant Deputy Executive Administrator, Water Science and Conservation

**SUBJECT:** SB 3 Outdoor Warning Siren Grants

### **ACTION REQUESTED**

Consider authorizing the Executive Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts for SB 3 Outdoor Warning Siren Grants.

### **BACKGROUND**

During the second called session of the 89th Texas Legislature, the legislature passed Senate Bill (SB) 3 relating to outdoor warning sirens in flash flood-prone areas in response to the devastating July 2025 flooding in Texas. The bill requires the Office of the Governor (OOG) to establish and administer a grant program to assist municipalities, counties, and other governmental entities with the costs of installing outdoor warning sirens. In November 2025, the OOG delegated this responsibility to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

Additionally, SB 5, passed by the 89th Texas Legislature in the second called session, appropriated \$50 million from the economic stabilization fund to the OOG for the two-year period beginning September 18, 2025 (the effective date of the bill). Funding is for grants to assist counties, municipalities, or other local governments operating within certain counties (as provided by the governor's declaration of disaster on July 4, 2025) to install outdoor warning siren systems, including flood gages and all other components essential to the function of the system. In the November 2025 delegation of the grant program to TWDB, the OOG also agreed to transfer this money to the TWDB for that grant program. A portion of the \$50 million will be used to support TWDB's administration of the program.

#### **Our Mission**

Leading the state's efforts  
in ensuring a secure  
water future for Texas

#### **Board Members**

L'Oreal Stepney, P.E., Chairwoman | W. Brady Franks, Board Member | Ashley Morgan, Board Member  
Bryan McMath, Executive Administrator

### **KEY ISSUES**

The Executive Administrator recommends apportioning this funding to each county included in the Governor's July 2025 Disaster Declaration to implement the requirements of SB 3 in a timely manner. The Executive Administrator would enter into a grant agreement with each county for a maximum of \$1 million with an allowance to increase that amount by \$250,000; any additional increases would require approval by the Board. After executing the grant agreement, each county would submit a project plan, including scope of work and budget, for each discrete project the county intends to conduct for review and approval by the TWDB Executive Administrator. The county could work with municipalities and other governmental entities to install the required outdoor warning sirens, in accordance with Texas Water Code § 16.502. The county and any other appropriate local government would work to determine the necessary projects and project sponsors.

Through the grant agreements, the TWDB would allow for advances of funds.

At the outset of this grant program, each county would agree that all projects will be located in areas that are flash flood-prone with a history of consistent or severe flooding, in accordance with Texas Water Code § 16.502. The TWDB will continue working with our assigned contractor in identifying flash flood-prone areas throughout the disaster declaration areas that have a history of consistent or severe flooding. This continued work will be used to identify flash flood-prone areas.

Key considerations for the applicable counties:

- Each county will be required to submit a resolution from the Commissioner's Court authorizing acceptance of the money and approval to enter into a grant agreement.
- If a county must work with another local governmental entity for the installation of the outdoor warning siren, this must be done through a written agreement (Texas Water Code § 16.502).
- The grant agreement will allow for a certain level of advance payments and then the county will be required to submit documentation to establish eligible costs. This will be done through periodic reporting.

### **RECOMMENDATION**

The Executive Administrator recommends authorizing the Executive Administrator to negotiate and execute grant agreements with the following counties to implement the SB 3 Outdoor Warning Siren Grant Program: Bandera, Bexar, Burnet, Caldwell, Coke, Comal, Concho, Edwards, Gillespie, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Kendall, Kerr, Kimble, Kinney, Lampasas, Llano, Mason, Maverick, McCulloch, Menard, Real, Reeves, San Saba, Schleicher, Sutton, Tom Green, Travis, Uvalde, and Williamson counties.