



FIF FME PROJECT FUNDING REQUEST

BOARD DATE: June 25, 2026

Presented by: Chris Mercado

ACTION REQUESTED

Consider approving the selected flood management evaluation (FME) applications and authorizing the Executive Administrator to negotiate and execute contracts for grant funding from the 2024-2025 Flood Infrastructure Fund cycle in an amount not to exceed \$14,219,500 for watershed flood protection planning projects.

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 on 4/10/2025.

KEY ISSUES

The selected projects represent those 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. These studies involve planning of entire watersheds or sub-watersheds, as required by the TWDB regional flood planning program, to better inform the development of strategies using structural and nonstructural measures before a flood event. 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 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 four applicants listed in Table 1 have submitted complete financial assistance applications and are eligible to receive grant funding through the FIF for a portion of their total project cost. Applicants have pledged to contribute local funds to provide the remaining project costs, and no federal funds have been identified as a source by the applicants. Table 1 provides a summary of funding sources for these four studies, and application summaries are attached

COMMITMENT PERIOD: THREE (3) MONTHS TO EXPIRE September 30, 2026; however, the Executive Administrator may, at his discretion, grant up to one extension for a maximum of three months.

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	El Paso County	FMP Development for El Paso County SWMP	40229	75%	\$69,000	\$0	\$207,000	\$0	\$276,000
2	Harris County Flood Control District	SAFER Study	40214	75%	\$15,000,000	\$0	\$13,000,000	\$0	\$28,000,000
3	Sulphur River Basin Authority	North Sulphur River Channel Stability and Flooding Study	40241	75%	\$192,500	\$20,000	\$637,500	\$0	\$850,000
4	Wichita County	Wichita County Drainage Master Plan	40227	75%	\$125,000	\$0	\$375,000	\$0	\$500,000
	Total				\$15,386,500	\$20,000	\$14,219,500	\$0	\$29,626,000

The projects recommended for approval meet 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 Section 15.405;
2. the application does not include the actual preparation of a Federal Emergency Management Agency Flood Insurance Rate Maps;
3. the funding request does not include redundant funding;
4. 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;
5. the area to be served by the Project meets the requirements of the Flood Intended Use Plan related to the National Flood Insurance Program;
6. the project was developed using the best/most recent available data;

The selected projects recommended for approval meet 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: Application Summaries with Maps

1. Project Summary Map of FIF FME Areas

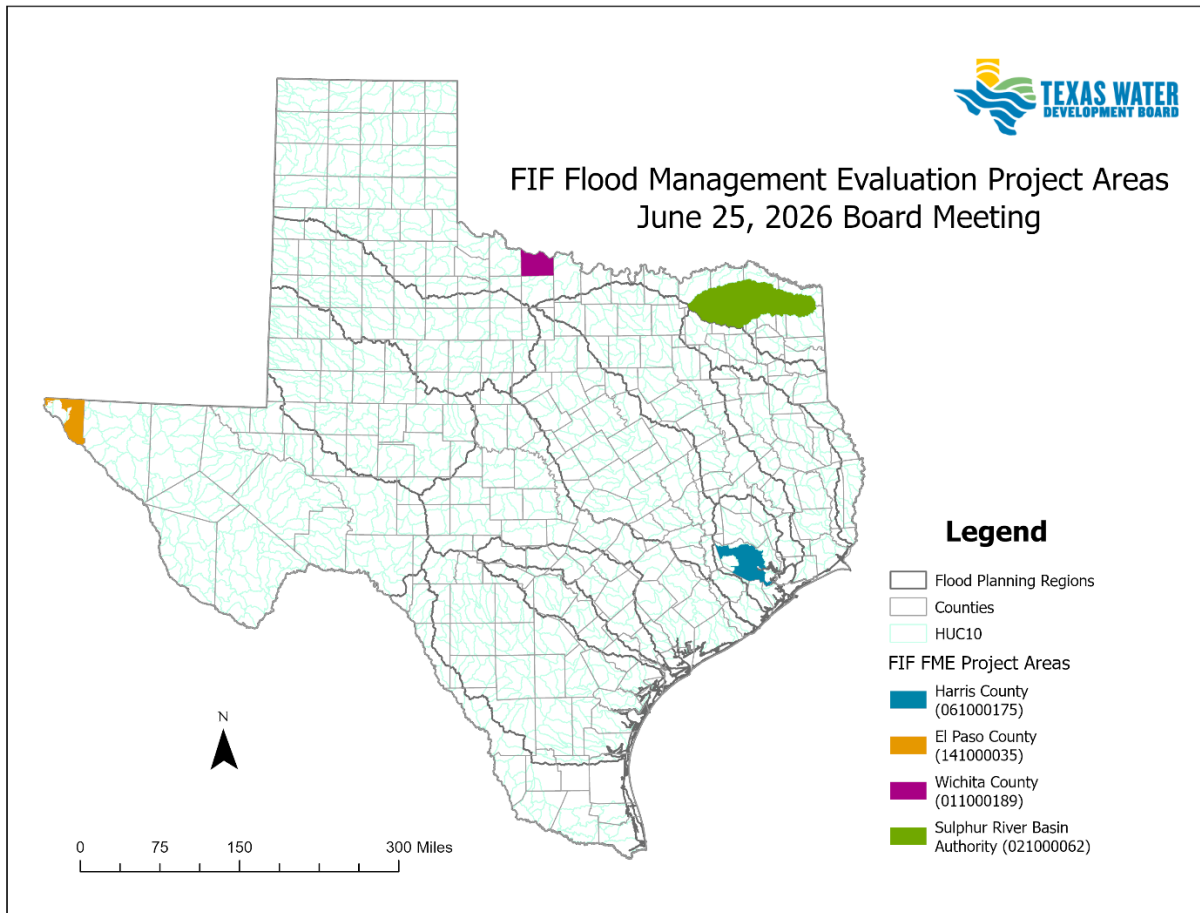
Board Members

June 25, 2026

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2. Project Summary of El Paso County
3. Project Summary of Harris County Flood Control District
4. Project Summary of Sulphur River Basin Authority
5. Project Summary of Wichita County

Project Summary Map of FIF FME Areas



EL PASO COUNTY

PROJECT NAME FMP Development for El Paso County SWMP, Project # 40217

PROJECT NEED AND DESCRIPTION

Project Need

El Paso County has a long history, with permanent settlement starting around the mid-1600s. As such, this has led to a variety of stormwater infrastructures being present in the region. The process of upgrading and updating storm infrastructure with modern methods and to modern standards has been and will be an ongoing process. The stormwater master plan projects listed in the application to be developed as flood mitigation projects (FMP) will work to address some of these shortfalls in historical infrastructure and respond to changes within El Paso County.

Project Description

The entity is requesting financial assistance to conduct a project to perform 7 FMEs. This project includes partial study of HUC-8s:13030102 and 13040100 with a total project area of 711.8 square miles. The project area includes approximately 23.82 stream miles to be studied. Currently, the 7 highest ranked projects in the stormwater master plan (SWMP) are expected to produce projects to 819 residences and will be prioritized. HAC2 is a proposed detention project to protect residences from flows from Horizon city and undeveloped areas.

- CAN2 is a proposed retention project for flood and sediment protection.
- CAN 3 is a proposed channel/culvert project in an area with demonstrated insufficient capacity.
- MON1 is a proposed retention project with flood and sediment protection for flows originating from the Fort Bliss Military Reservation.
- SSA5 is a proposed project to line 10,300 feet of the Sparks Arroyo to increase capacity, reduce sediment runoff, and erosion threat to surrounding properties.
- HAC1 is a proposed retention expansion with the currently undersized basins managing flow from the undeveloped mesa.

Key project elements:

1. Project Management and Meetings
2. Data Collection and Review
3. Survey/Field Work: Verify high-water marks and assessment of the infrastructure
4. Coordination with applicable Regional Flood Planning Groups and overlapping projects
5. Hydrologic Analysis: Complete hydrologic modeling as part of design in preparation for alternative analysis
6. Hydraulic Analysis: Complete hydraulic modeling as part of design in preparation for alternative analysis
7. Identification of Flood Problem Areas: Identify flood problem areas, mapping, and impact estimation.
8. Alternatives Analysis: Evaluate 3 alternative analyses for each of the 7 study locations
9. Community Outreach
10. QC/Model Validation
11. Reporting

Key project deliverables:

1. Updated hydrologic and hydraulic models including QA/QC reporting
2. Summary of field investigations and findings
3. Preliminary Engineering Feasibility Report and GIS-based maps of the 7 alternative locations
4. Summary of public meetings and comments
5. Final Report package summarizing findings, analyses, and recommendations

PROPOSED PROJECT FUNDING

TOTAL STUDY COST	\$276,000
Amount requested from FIF	\$207,000
Local Contribution	\$69,000
Local in-kind	\$0
Federal funding	\$0

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Schedule Date
Closing	September 30, 2026
FME Completion	April 30, 2028

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.

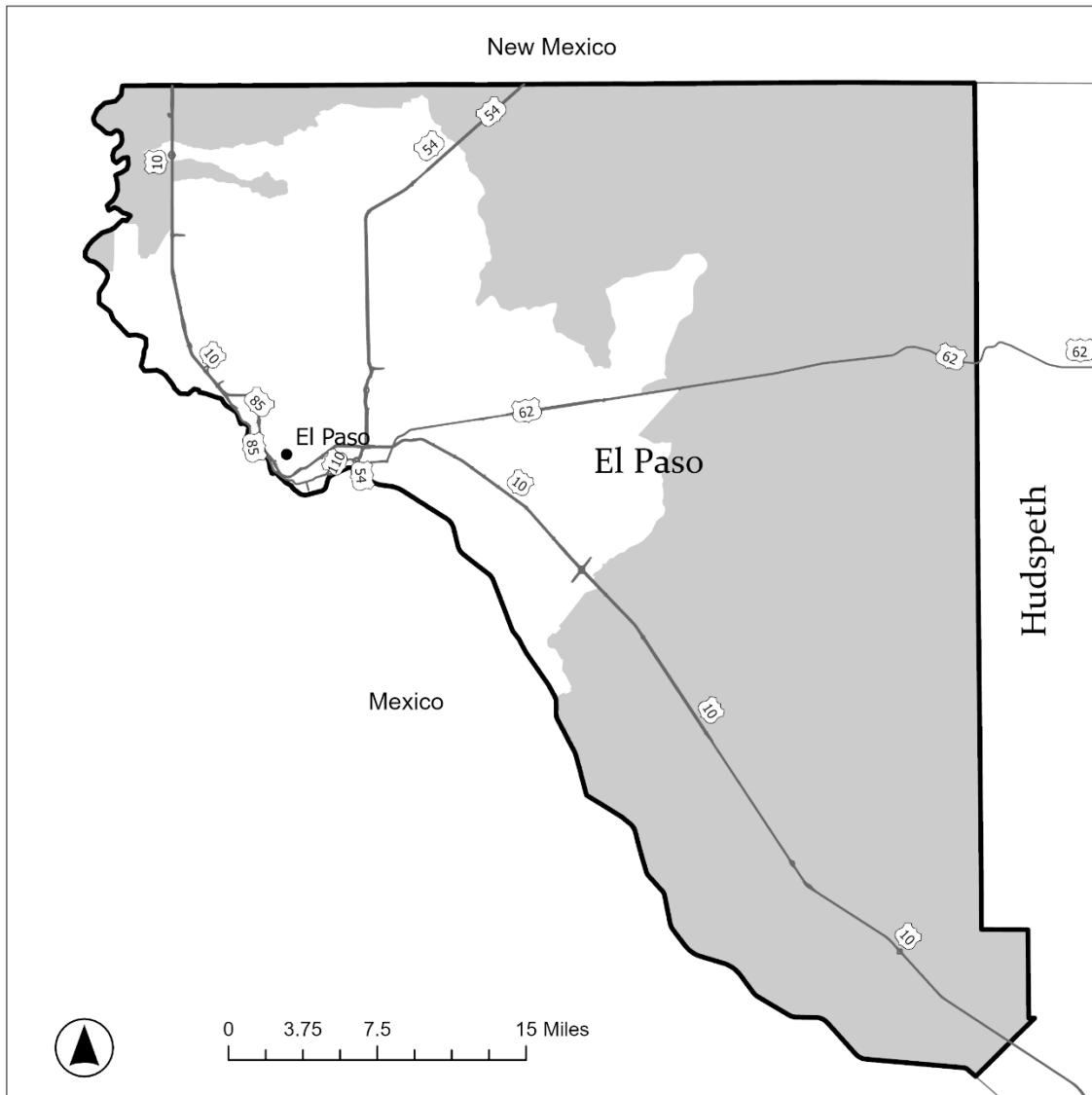
SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- 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 Flood Intended Use Plan.



El Paso County



HARRIS COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT

PROJECT NAME SAFER Study, Project # 40214

PROJECT NEED AND DESCRIPTION

Project Need

The SAFER (Solutions for Advancing Floodplain Evaluation and Resilience) Study is a flood mitigation evaluation that will look broadly across Harris County. This large-scale planning study will include 11 watersheds. Project recommendations identified during the SAFER Study will be significant in geographic scale and in the associated benefits that would be provided. The SAFER Study will not only evaluate the effectiveness of large-scale flood mitigation projects within strategic locations, but also how potential large-scale projects will function collectively with the existing flood damage reduction system to provide benefits across Harris County. Harris County's vulnerability to flooding is well documented: it is the number one natural disaster in the region, with more than 250,000 structures flooded over the past 24 years. Each of these events caused extensive damage to businesses, homes, cars, and infrastructure systems and caused the death of numerous residents. The devastation caused by these events made it clear that every bayou, and their associated channels, creeks, gullies, and ditches, across the county faces the risk of flooding.

Project Description

The SAFER Study will evaluate and identify recommendations for substantial, wide-ranging flood mitigation measures to provide regional benefits, rather than identifying smaller, incremental projects that address the needs slowly over time. The study will perform more detailed evaluation of stormwater tunnels than was previously conducted and compare their performance against and in conjunction with more traditional flood mitigation measures to determine which methods work best in which settings. The project study area evaluates parts of the three HUC-8 watersheds totaling 1,253 square miles and 1,294 total stream miles. Project recommendations for a more robust stormwater management system will be identified using comprehensive benefits, which include consideration of social and environmental aspects, as well as economic factors when alternatives are evaluated, and recommendations are developed.

Key project elements:

1. Project Management and Meetings
2. Data Collection and Review: Prepare a data management plan for collected data
3. Coordination with Applicable Regional Flood Planning Groups and Overlapping Projects
4. Hydrologic Analysis: Complete hydrologic model analysis and calibration
5. Hydraulic Analysis: Complete hydraulic model analysis and calibration
6. Identification of Flood Problem Areas: Identify of high-risk flood-prone areas for 11 watersheds
7. Alternative Analysis: Evaluate a minimum of 50 alternatives using comprehensive benefits framework
8. Community Outreach: Organize 3 public meetings and 10 scoping meetings
9. QC/Model Validation
10. Reporting

Key project deliverables:

1. SAFER Study Project Management and Study Review Plan
2. Data Management Plan summarizing collected data
3. Desktop Environmental Summary Report
4. Updated hydrologic and hydraulic models including QA/QC reporting
5. List/Table and Maps of Alternative Solutions Results
6. Draft and Final Feasibility Reports

PROPOSED PROJECT FUNDING

TOTAL STUDY COST	\$28,000,000
Amount requested from FIF	\$13,000,000
Local Contribution	\$15,000,000
Local in-kind	\$0
Federal funding	\$0

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Schedule Date
Closing	September 30, 2026
FME Completion	April 30, 2030

FINANCIAL

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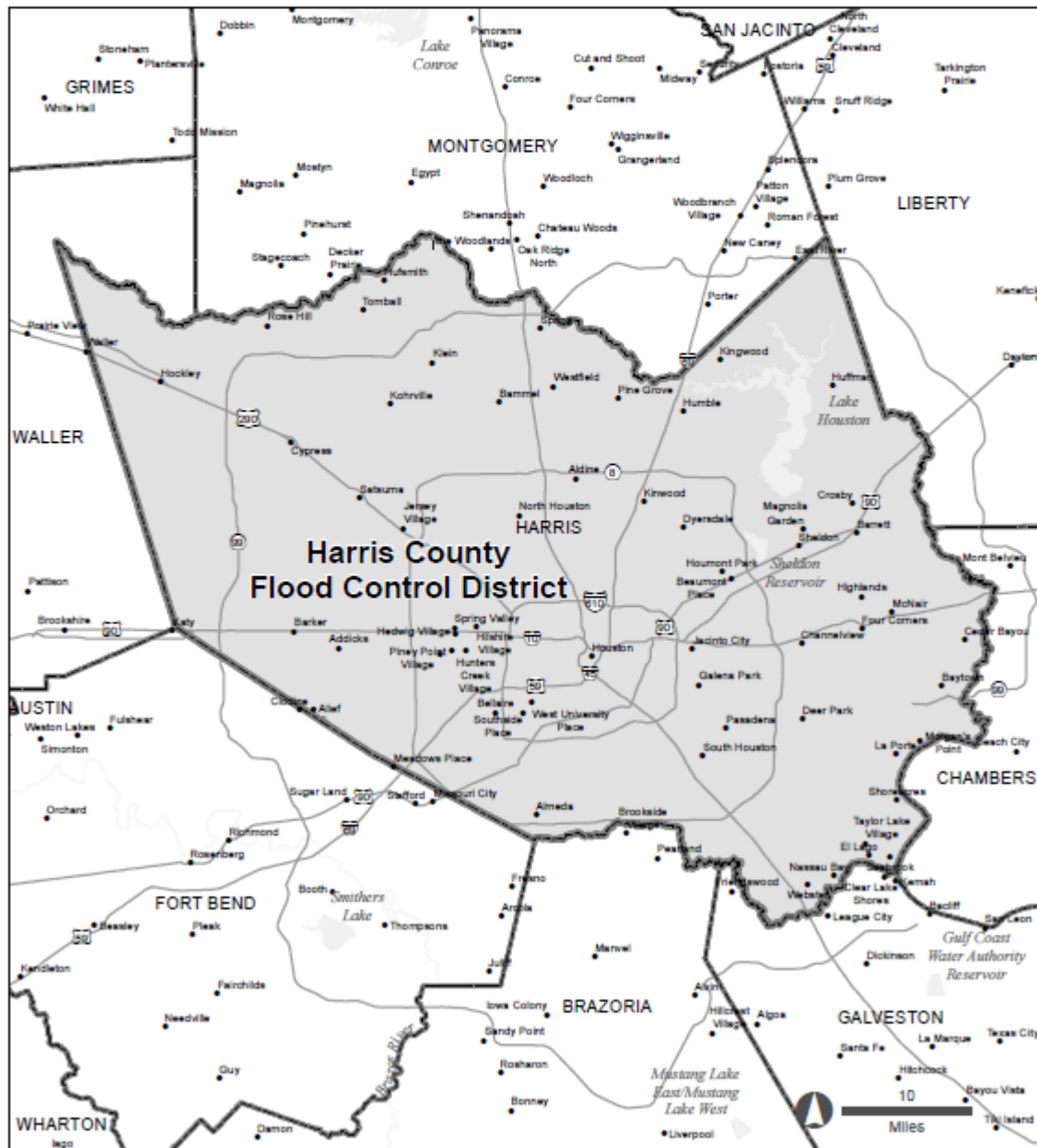
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- Prior to closing, the entity must submit documentation evidencing that the area to be served by the Project has floodplain ordinances or orders, as applicable, in place, in accordance with the Flood Infrastructure Fund Intended Use Plan or must include 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 Flood Intended Use Plan.

Harris County Flood Control District
Project Name: SAFER Study, Project # 40214



Harris County Flood Control District



SULPHUR RIVER BASIN AUTHORITY

PROJECT NAME North Sulphur River Channel Stability and Flooding Study, Project # 40241

PROJECT NEED AND DESCRIPTION

Project Need

The Sulphur River Basin, located in Northeast Texas, encompasses all or portions of Fannin, Hunt, Lamar, Hopkins, Red River, Franklin, Titus, Morris, Bowie, Cass, and Delta counties. Covering more than 3,500 square miles, the basin supports rural communities, agricultural industries, and natural ecosystems. However, escalating flood hazards now threaten communities, infrastructure, and natural resources. Historic channel modifications have intensified riverine flooding by steepening slopes and increasing flood peaks, while ongoing sedimentation has reduced the storage capacity of major reservoirs such as Jim Chapman Lake and Wright Patman Lake. This loss of capacity limits the ability to buffer high-flow events and increases downstream flood risk. Compounding these issues, debris and log jams obstruct flow conveyance and destabilize channels, creating localized flooding hazards. Infrastructure across the basin, including bridges and roadways, is increasingly vulnerable to erosion and overtopping during storm events, raising the likelihood of costly damage and service disruptions.

Recent surveys confirmed measurable loss of reservoir capacity and observed flooding in tributaries such as the Lower Sulphur. Updated floodplain mapping indicated that hundreds of properties are already at risk of inundation during 100-year storm events, with risk projected to grow as sedimentation and channel instability worsen. Between 2005 and 2024, the project benefit area experienced 11 Disaster Declarations, resulting in an estimated \$6.8M in damages. The basin will continue to experience heightened flood risk, reduced water resource resilience, and increased threats to public safety and economic stability if no strategies are implemented.

Project Description

The North Sulphur River Channel Stability and Flooding Study, total study area 3,770 square miles, will analyze sediment buildup and debris impacts within the Sulphur River watershed to guide long-term flood mitigation. By measuring sediment accumulation and evaluating how log debris worsens flooding, the study will generate data-driven strategies for sediment and debris management. The study will consist of 3,770 hydrologic square miles and 119.6 hydraulics stream miles. The final product will be a comprehensive masterplan, serving as the foundation for future projects to reduce sediment loads, manage debris, and strengthen flood resilience for communities across the Sulphur River Basin.

Key project elements:

1. Project Management and Meetings
2. Data Collection and Review
3. Survey/Field Work: Collect survey data for key structures with periodic bathymetric measurements.
4. Coordination with Applicable Regional Flood Planning Groups and Overlapping Projects
5. Hydrologic Analysis: Perform Long term and event-based hydrologic simulations
6. Hydraulic Analysis: Complete floodplain hydraulic and sedimentation modeling
7. Identification of Flood Problem Areas
8. Alternative Analysis: Produce a master plan identifying flooding sources causes by stream degradation and sedimentation along with potential solutions. A minimum of 6 alternatives will be developed.
9. Community Outreach: Hold public meetings at key project stages
10. QC/Model Validation
11. Reporting: Produce a comprehensive masterplan for sediment reduction and flood mitigation projects and strategies.

Key project deliverables:

1. Data Collection Memo summarizing available data and collection outreach efforts
2. Survey reports of structures and bathymetric sections
3. Hydrologic models (HEC-HMS, SWAT, and HPSF) and QA/QC reporting
4. Hydraulic models (HEC-RAS) and QA/QC reporting
5. List/Table and Maps of Alternative Solutions Results
6. Final Report Package

PROPOSED PROJECT FUNDING

TOTAL STUDY COST	\$850,000
Amount requested from FIF	\$637,500
Local Contribution	\$192,500
Local in-kind	\$20,000
Federal funding	\$0

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Schedule Date
Closing	September 30, 2026
FME Completion	July 30, 2029

FINANCIAL

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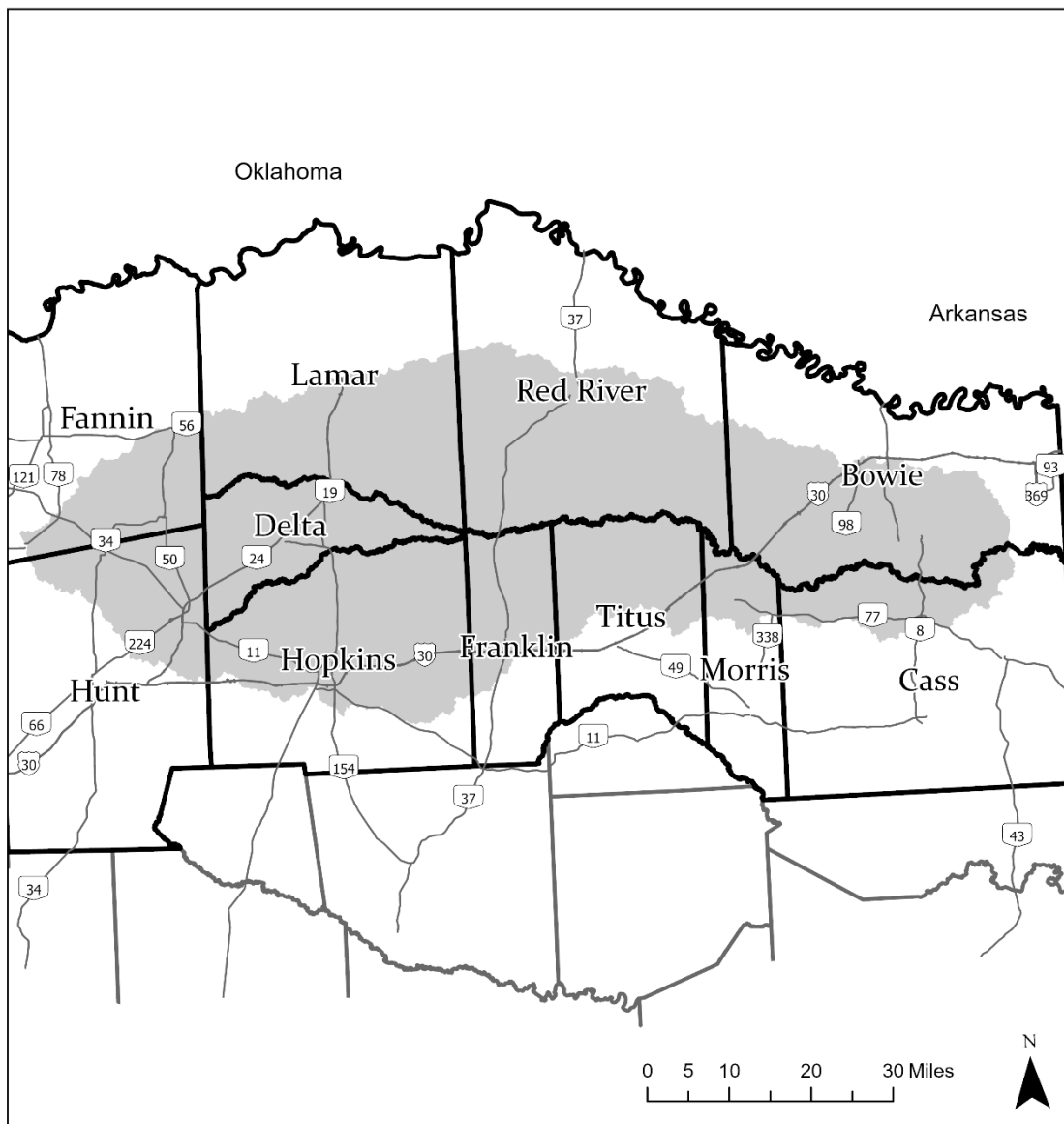
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Sulphur River Basin Authority



Sulphur River Basin Authority

Project Name: North Sulphur River Channel Stability and Flooding Study, Project # 40241

WICHITA COUNTY

PROJECT NAME Wichita County Drainage Master Plan, Project # 40227

PROJECT NEED AND DESCRIPTION

Project Need

The study was identified based on the first cycle determination of an estimated 10,515 people, 3,987 structures, and 72 critical facilities at a 100-year flood risk. Due to these flood risks identified, this FME was priority ranked in the top 1.26 percent in the 2024 State Flood Plan. More recently, the needs analysis for the 2028 Regional Flood Plan indicates that this county is in the top 3 percent of needs in Region 1. This needs analysis was based on the exposure risk, preparedness factors, disaster declarations, and flood insurance claims.

Project Description

The entity is requesting financial assistance to conduct a project that develop a drainage master plan. The drainage master plan will include the development of hydrologic and hydraulic models, define flood hazard risks for private properties and public infrastructure, identify and evaluate improvement alternatives, and identify a minimum of 10 priority flood hazard areas for potential Flood Mitigation Projects (FMPs) that will be incorporated into the Regional Flood Plan. The study is a partial study of the following HUC-8s: 11130102, 11130209, and 11130206. The project area includes 2,345 square miles of study and approximately 6,058 stream miles of hydraulic study.

Key project elements:

1. Project Management and Meetings
2. Data Collection and Review
3. Survey/Field Work: Perform field visits for known flood and erosion problems
4. Coordination with Applicable Regional Flood Planning Groups and Overlapping Projects
5. Hydrologic Analysis: Obtain, review, and refine available hydrologic models to complete high-level planning analysis
6. Hydraulic Analysis: Obtain, review, and refine available hydraulic models to complete the high-level planning analysis
7. Identification of Flood Problem Areas: Utilize models to identify areas of high flood risk to life property. Incorporate list of county staff identified areas to identify ten priority flood hazard areas for potential flood mitigation project (FMP) development.
8. Alternative Analysis: Perform a benefit-cost analysis for a minimum of 4 feasible FMP alternatives.
9. Community Outreach: Develop a public website for study and allow community feedback for the study and report additional known areas of flooding. Hold public meetings to bring awareness to the study's benefit to the community.
10. QC/Model Validation
11. Reporting
12. Stormwater Policies and Design Criteria Updates: Identify improvements to policy and ordinance updates

Key project deliverables:

1. Updated hydrologic and hydraulic models including QA/QC reporting
2. Floodplain maps and inundation maps for the identified priority flood hazard areas

Wichita County

Project Name: Wichita County Drainage Master Plan, Project # 40227

3. List/Table and Maps of Alternative Solutions Results
4. Public website for drainage master plan that will allow community feedback and report known areas of flooding.
5. Final Report Package
6. Final Policy and Design Criteria Updates

PROPOSED PROJECT FUNDING

TOTAL STUDY COST	\$500,000
Amount requested from FIF	\$375,000
Local Contribution	\$125,000
Local in-kind	\$0
Federal funding	\$0

PROJECT SCHEDULE

Task	Schedule Date
Closing	September 30, 2026
FME Completion	April 30, 2028

FINANCIAL

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Wichita County

Project Name: Wichita County Drainage Master Plan, Project # 40227



Wichita County

