

Region 15 Lower Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting
January 13, 2021
8:30 AM

Publicly Accessible Videoconference

www.hcdd1.org

Meeting will be conducted via Zoom at: [Join Zoom Meeting](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8861189817?pwd=RDVXbkVvM1FQRIR0YzktOY0STMwZz09)
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8861189817?pwd=RDVXbkVvM1FQRIR0YzktOY0STMwZz09>

AGENDA

1. **Call to order and welcoming remarks**
2. **Roll call and establish quorum**
3. **Discussion - Review of written public comments received**
4. **Discussion and action as appropriate - consider approval of minutes from previous meeting on December 3, 2020**
5. **Discussion and action as appropriate – consideration of a Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG mission statement**
6. **Update from the Texas Water Development Board**
 - a. TWDB presentation on RFPG responsibilities and grant Scope of Work
7. **Discussion and action as appropriate – additional non-voting positions to be assigned by entities**
 - a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - b. Update from Planning Group Sponsor
 - i. Non-voting member assigned by Lower Rio Grande Development Council
 - ii. Non-voting member assigned by South Texas Development Council
 - iii. Non-voting member assigned by Middle Rio Grande Development Council
 - iv. Non-voting member assigned by Oklahoma/Texas U.S. Geological Survey
 - v. Non-voting member assigned by International Boundary and Water Commission
8. **Discussion and action as appropriate – additional non-voting and voting membership**
 - a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - b. Update from Planning Group Sponsor
 - c. Discussion, nominations, and consideration of individuals to fill two (2) voting positions in the counties interest category
 - d. Discussion, nominations, and consideration of individuals to fill the one (1) voting position in the flood districts interest category
9. **Discuss and consider action regarding non-voting member liaisons designated by each RFPG to coordinate between the upstream and downstream FPRs located within that same river basin (required per Texas Administrative Code §361.11(f)(8)). The RFPG will designate a liaison to become a non-voting member of the RFPG with which it shares a river basin.**
 - a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
10. **Discuss and consider action regarding non-voting member liaisons designated by each RFPG to coordinate with neighboring FPRs along the Gulf Coast (required per Texas Administrative Code §361.11(f)(9)). The RFPG will designate a liaison to each of its neighboring RFPGs along the Gulf Coast. Each liaison will become a non-voting member of the neighboring RFPG.**
 - a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

- 11. Discussion and action as appropriate – development of regional flood planning grant application**
 - a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - b. Update from Planning Group Sponsor
- 12. Discussion and action as appropriate as it relates to RFQ and scope of work**
 - a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - b. Update from Planning Group Sponsor
- 13. Discussion and action as appropriate – development of public website (required per Texas Administrative Code §361.21(b))**
 - a. Pre-registered public comment and public comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
 - b. Update from Planning Group Sponsor
- 14. Receive general public comment** (Public comments will be limited to 3 minutes per speaker)
- 15. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting**
- 16. Adjourn**

If you wish to provide written comments prior to or after the meeting, please email your comments to jaime.salazar@hcdd1.org and include “Region 15 Lower Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting” in the subject line of the email.

If you wish to provide oral public comments at the meeting, please call (956) 292-7080. Please call into the meeting at least 15 minutes before so that a check of your audio may be conducted to ensure you are heard properly.

Additional information may be obtained from: Jaime J. Salazar, 956-292-7080, region15lrg@hcdd1.org , 902 N. Doolittle Edinburg TX 78542.

This meeting is a public meeting under Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code.

Region 15 Lower Rio Grande Flood Planning Group will hold a public meeting via Zoom Meeting <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/8861189817?pwd=RDVXbkVvM1FQRIR0YzKxT0Y0STMwZz09> pursuant to Texas Government Code, Section 551.127, as modified by the temporary suspension of various provisions in accordance with the Governor's March 13, 2020 proclamation related to, the COVID-19 pandemic.

Meeting Minutes
Region 15 Lower Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Meeting
December 3, 2020
8:30am
GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Jose "Joe" Angel Hinojosa	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	X
David A. Garza	<i>Counties</i>	X
Daniel Lucio, Jr.	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	X
Hudson DeYoe	<i>Environmental interests</i>	X
David L. Fuentes	<i>Flood districts</i>	X
Plinio Joey Trevino	<i>Industries</i>	X
Vanessa Rosales-Herrera	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
Joe A. Califa	<i>Public</i>	X
Jose Luis Caso	<i>Small business</i>	*
Sonia Lambert	<i>Water districts</i>	X
Riazul I. Mia	<i>Water utilities</i>	X

* Lymaira Reyes served as a designated alternate for Jose Caso.

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Willy Cupit	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	X
Tim Frere	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Nelda Barrera	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Adrian Perez	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Shonda Mace	General Land Office	
David Ramirez	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Megan Ingram	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **11**

Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 11: **6.**

Other Meeting Attendees: **

Jaime Salazar (Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1)

Megan Ingram (TWBD)

Morgan White (TWDB)

Reem Zoun (TWDB)

James Bronikowski (TWDB)
Matt Nelson (TWDB)
Richard Bagans (TWDB)
Mohamed Bagha
Miles Bullion
Jim Carrillo
Stephanie Castillo
Troy Dorman
Stephanie Griffin
Derek Katznelson
Kristina Leal
Josh Logan
Michael Moya
Nick Panyard

**Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information for joining the GoToWebinar meeting.

All meeting materials are available for the public at:

<http://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/regions/schedule.asp>.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order and establish Quorum

David Garza called the meeting to order at 8:34AM. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance and a quorum was established prior to calling the meeting to order.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome

David Garza welcomed members to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approval of minutes from previous meeting November 5, 2020

David Garza opened discussion regarding minutes from previous meeting on November 5, 2020. No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

A motion was made by Sonia Lambert to approve minutes from previous meeting November 5, 2020. The motion was seconded by Riazul Mia. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 3.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: TWDB Update

Megan Ingram provided an TWDB update, indicating that this will be a standing agenda item at future meetings.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: TWDB Presentation

Megan Ingram gave a presentation providing an overview of flooding in Texas and introducing next steps regarding the Request for Applications for Regional Flood Planning Grant contracts to be submitted to the TWDB.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Consider approval of bylaws as discussed by group and updated by TWDB

David Garza opened discussion regarding bylaws as adopted by the group and updated by TWDB. No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

A motion was made by David Fuentes to approve bylaws as discussed by group and updated by TWDB. The motion was seconded by Daniel Lucio. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 6.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Consider nominating and electing RFPG Vice Chair and Secretary (as applicable, per group bylaws)

David Garza introduced the consideration of nominating and electing RFPG Vice Chair and Secretary.

A nomination of David Fuentes as Vice Chair was made by Lymaira Reyes (alternate for Jose Caso). David Fuentes was elected as Vice Chair by acclamation.

A nomination of Sonia Lambert as the Secretary was made by Joe Hinojosa.
Sonia Lambert was elected as Secretary by acclamation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Consider nominating and electing two members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee (as applicable, per group bylaws).

David Garza opened discussion on electing two members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee.
No points or comments/concerns were brought forth during open discussion.

A nomination of Riazul Mia as a member-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee was made by David Fuentes.

A nomination of Vanessa Rosales-Herrera as a member-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee was made by David Garza.

A nomination of Joe Hinojosa as a member-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee was made by Sonia Lambert.

Riazul Mia received 8 votes.
Vanessa Rosales-Herrera received 5 votes.
Joe Hinojosa received 7 votes.

Riazul Mia and Joe Hinojosa were selected as two members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 8.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discuss whether a river authorities interest exists in the region and, if applicable consider authorizing the Hidalgo County Drainage District No 1 to initiate solicitation process for individuals to fill the position

David Garza opened discussion on whether a river authorities interest exists in the region.

The members discussed the potential inclusion of a “river interest” category instead of river authorities, the definition of river authorities under regional flood planning rules, and the international nature of river interests in Region 15.

The members concluded that a river authority does not exist in the region.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 9.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Discuss and consider action to add additional voting and non-voting positions that may be needed to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region:

David Garza opened discussion regarding additional voting and non-voting positions that may be needed to ensure adequate representation from the interest in the region.

The members discussed the potential additions of the following: a “river interest” interest category, the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) as a non-voting member, the United States Geological Survey (USGS) as a non-voting member, additional county positions, representation from Willacy County and Starr County, and an additional flood districts position.

The members discussed the need to include representation from Mexico and the importance of IBWC throughout the region.

David Garza opened the floor to public comment for Agenda Item No. 9 and Agenda Item No. 10.

Derek Katznelson (Lower Rio Grande Valley Development Council) provided public comment regarding the potential addition of non-voting membership representing Councils of Governments (COGs) throughout the region.

A motion was made by David Garza to add one (1) non-voting IBWC position, three (3) non-voting Council of Governments positions (one from each COG in the region), and one (1) non-voting USGS position to the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG.
The motion passed by unanimous consent.

A motion was made by David Garza to add two (2) additional voting county interest category positions and one (1) additional voting flood district interest category position to the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFPG.
The motion passed by voice vote.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 10.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider authorizing the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 to initiate RFPG solicitation process for individuals to fill any new voting or non-voting positions created under Agenda Item 10.

David Garza opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

The members authorized the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 to initiate the RFPG solicitation process for individuals to fill new voting positions created under Agenda Item No. 10. David Garza indicated that a vote to do so was not required.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 11.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Update from Planning Group Sponsor regarding status of Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with the TWDB.

David Garza opened discussion regarding updates from the Planning Group Sponsor regarding status of Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with the TWDB.

Jaime Salazar discussed the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1’s procurement guidelines.

The members discussed their wish for the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 to perform a competitive Request for Qualifications and the goal for members to review the Draft Scope of Work posted on the TWDB website before the next RFPG meeting.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 12.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Consider a means by which the RFPG will develop and host a public website (required per §361.21(b))

Jaime Salazar introduced the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1's initial efforts regarding development of a public RFPG website.

David Garza opened the floor for discussion.

Members discussed their preference for a standalone RFPG website instead of a webpage housed on the Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1's website. The members concluded that website development is a high priority. Jaime Salazar will present at the next RFPG meeting next steps regarding website development.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 13.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Consider a means by which the RFPG will accept written public comment prior to and after meetings (required per §361.21(c))

Jaime Salazar introduced current means to accept written public comment prior to and after meetings. David Garza concurred with Jaime Salazar's potential suggestion to create a Region 15 RFPG Sponsor email address to direct future written public comment.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 14.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Discussion of the required solicitation for persons or entities who request to be notified of RFPG activities (required per §361.21(e)).

Jaime Salazar introduced the required solicitation for persons or entities who request to be notified of RFPG activities.

The members discussed related action to forward to Jaime Salazar the contact information of any individuals or entities who are interested in being included on the mailing list.

David Garza closed discussion on AGENDA ITEM NO. 15.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Public comments – limit 3 minutes per person

David Garza opened the floor to public comments. No public comments were given.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

The next Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFG meeting will be on Wednesday, January 13, 2021 at 8:30am. Agenda items will include a presentation by TWDB, any other necessary items, and considering a group mission statement.

Jaime Salazar reminded members of the group bylaws requirement that an alternate must be designated 48 hours prior to a meeting which a member will not attend.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 18:

The meeting adjourned at 10:21AM by David Garza.

*Approved by the Region 15 Lower Rio Grande RFG at a meeting held on **DATE**.*

FIRST AND LAST NAME, SECRETARY

FIRST AND LAST NAME, CHAIR

Texas Water Development Board Flood Planning Presentation Regional Flood Planning Group

TABLE OF CONTENTS:

- RFPG Responsibilities: Scope of Work Overview(20 minutes)

RFPG Responsibilities: Scope of Work Overview (20 minutes)

General Document Cross-Reference

Regional Flood Planning Contract Document References			2023 Regional Flood Plan Chapter, Associated TAC Sections, and Content		
TWDB Contract Reimbursement Accounting Number ('CAS')	Exhibit A - Contract SOW Task	Exhibit C - General Guidelines for Regional Flood Plan Development	Regional Flood Plan Chapter Number	Primary TAC Section	General Content
1	1	1	1	§361.30; §361.31; §361.32	Planning Area Description
2	2A	2	2	361.33	Existing Condition Flood Risk Analyses
3	2B			361.34	Future Condition Flood Risk Analyses

Task 1 – Planning Area Description



Llano dam on the Llano river sits on the banks of the county seat.

Image: TWDB

A general description of the region, including:

- social & economic character
- flood-prone areas, types of major flood risks, and key historical flood events
- political subdivisions with flood related authority
- the extent of local regulation and development codes relevant to flooding
- existing or proposed natural flood mitigation features and constructed major flood infrastructure

Task 2A & 2B – Existing & Future Condition Flood Risk Analyses

Perform existing and future condition **flood hazard analyses** to determine the location and magnitude of both 1.0% and 0.2% annual chance flood events



Develop existing & future condition **flood exposure analyses** to identify who and what might be harmed for both 1.0% and 0.2% annual chance flood events.

Perform existing & future condition **vulnerability analyses** to identify vulnerabilities of communities and critical facilities

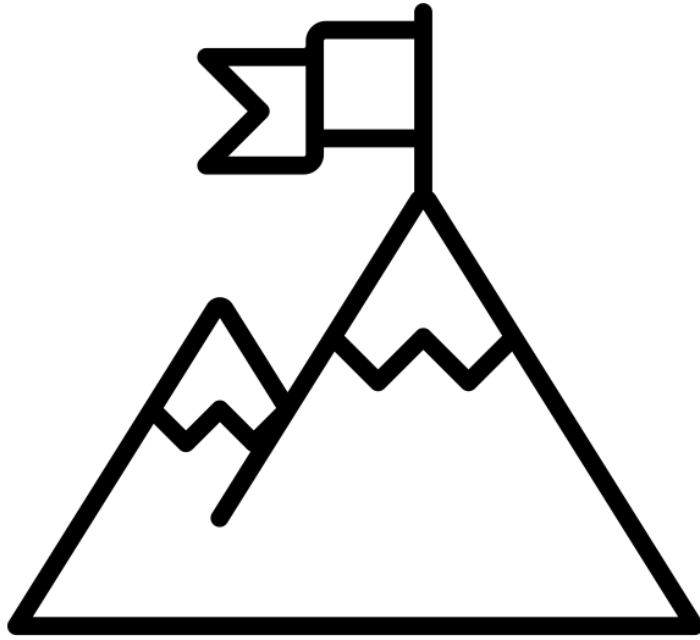
Task 3A – Evaluation & Recommendations on Floodplain Management Practices

- Consider how current floodplain management practices or regulations increase flood risks.
- Consider how the 1.0% annual chance floodplain and associated flood risks may change over time.
- Consider adopting minimum floodplain management/land use standards that an entity must adopt prior to including any evaluations, projects, or strategies in the regional flood plan.



West Fork San Jacinto River near Humble, Texas after Hurricane Harvey
Image: Steve Fitzgerald, Harris County Flood Control District

Task 3B – Flood Mitigation & Floodplain Management Goals

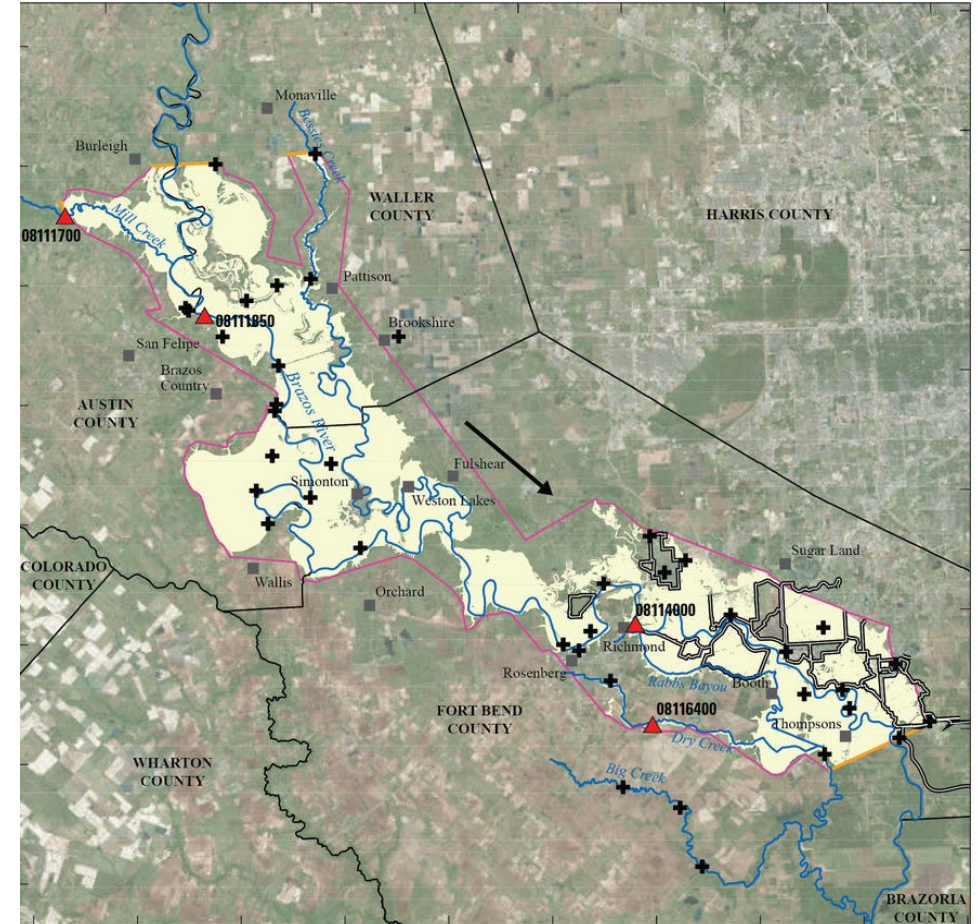


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- Identify specific and achievable flood mitigation and floodplain management goals
 - Short (10 year) & Long-Term (30 year)
- State the levels of residual flood risk after goals are fully met.

Task 4A – Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis

- Identify locations within the region that have the greatest flood mitigation and flood risk study needs.
- Based on the analyses and goals developed by the RFPG under Tasks 2A through 3B

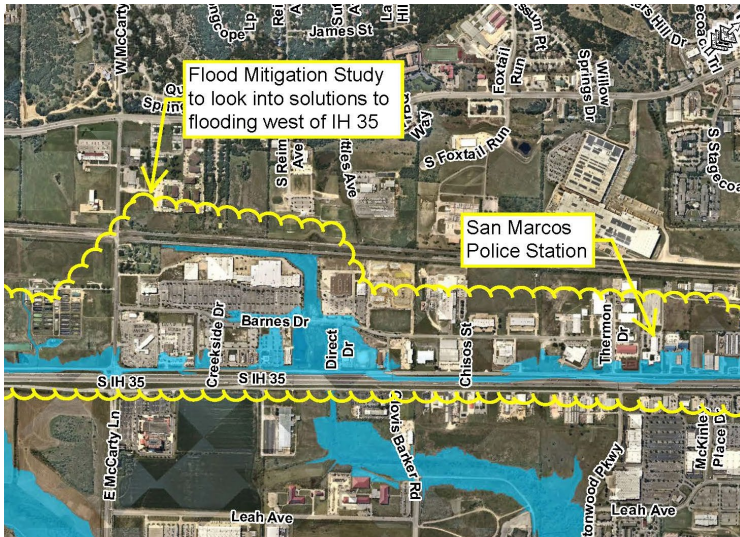


Map of inundated areas (yellow areas) on the lower Brazos River after Hurricane Harvey
Image: USGS

Key Terms for Tasks 4 & 5: FME, FMP, FMS

Flood Management Evaluation (FME)

- A proposed flood study of a specific, flood-prone area that is needed in order to assess flood risk and/or determine whether there are potentially feasible FMSs or FMPs.



Cottonwood Creek Flood Study, San Marcos, TX.

Image: City of San Marcos

Flood Management Strategy (FMS)

- A proposed plan to reduce flood risk or mitigate flood hazards to life or property (may or may not require associated FMPs to be implemented).



Exploration Green project, Clear Lake City, TX

Image: Texas Water Resources Institute

Flood Mitigation Project (FMP)

- A proposed project (structural and non-structural) that when implemented will reduce flood risk, mitigate flood hazards to life or property.

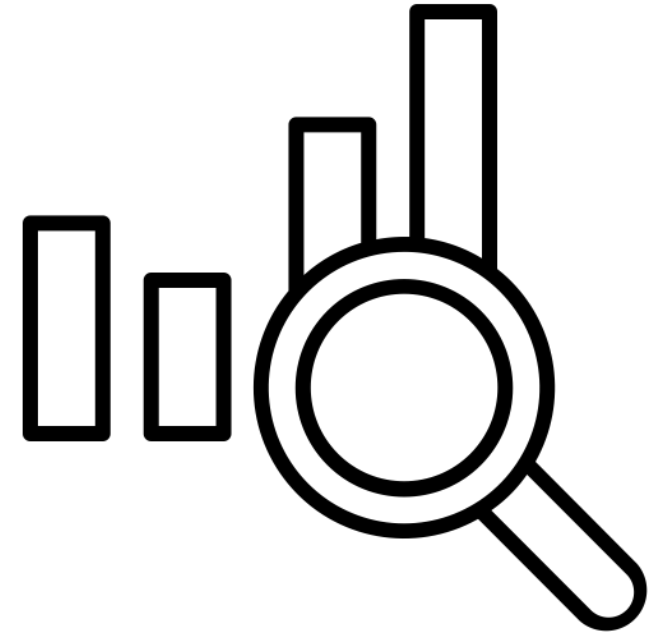


El Paso storm water project, El Paso, TX

Image: El Paso Water

Task 4B – Identification and Evaluation of Potential FMEs & Potentially Feasible FMSs and FMPs

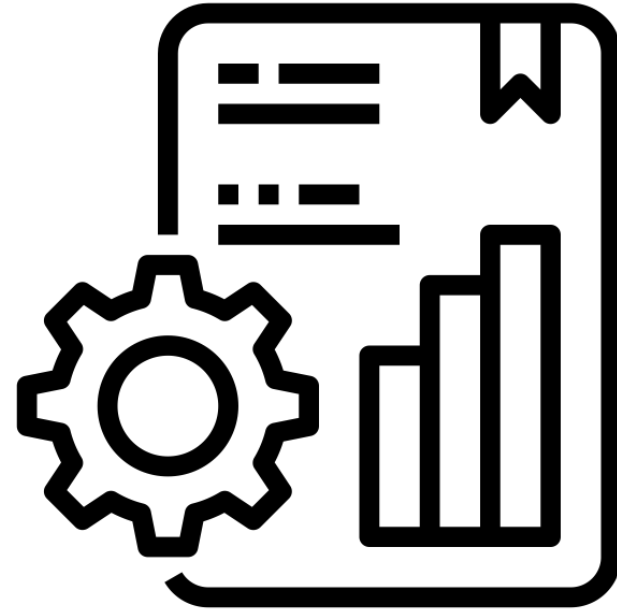
- Identify potential FMEs and potentially feasible FMSs and FMPs based on process developed with public input
- Evaluate potential FMEs and potentially feasible FMSs and FMPs based on a variety of factors described in rules and guidance.
- The FMPs should be permittable, constructible, and implementable.



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Task 4C – Prepare and Submit Technical Memorandum

- Include all deliverables from Tasks 1 to 4B detailed in the Scope of Work
- TWDB Guidance Document will provide more information.
- Tentative Due Date: January 2022



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Task 5 – Recommendation of FMEs, FMSs & FMPs

- Recommend FMEs that are most likely to identify potentially feasible FMSs and FMPs based on evaluations under Task 4B
- Recommend FMSs and FMPs to reduce the impacts of flood based on evaluations under Task 4B
- Recommendations should be based on comparison of alternatives



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Regional & State Flood Planning Long-Range Planning Process



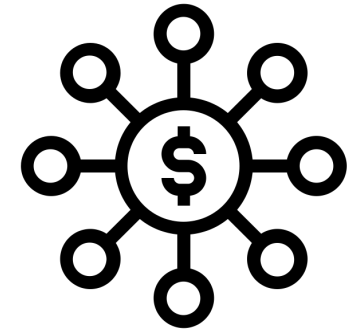
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Regional Flood Plans will identify flood risk and recommend FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs within regions.



Created by Creative Stall
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State Flood Plan will rank recommended FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs statewide.



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Future state financial assistance may be allocated using a to-be-determined prioritization criteria.*

*Funding to implement projects can also come from local, federal, or other sources.

Task 6A – Impacts of Regional Flood Plan

- Summarize the relative reduction in flood risk that implementation of the plan would achieve.
- Describe impacts of recommended FMSs and FMPs on environment, agriculture, recreation, water quality, erosion, sedimentation, and navigation.
- State that FMPs will not negatively affect neighboring areas.



Crops in the lower Rio Grande Valley
Image: TWDB



Recreational boating.
Image: TWDB



Dolan Falls
Image: TWDB

Task 6B – Impacts on Water Supply

- Summarize how Regional Flood Plan will affect water supply.
- How would FMSs and FMPs contribute to water supply?
- How would FMSs and FMPs impact water supply, availability, or projects in the State Water Plan?



© Texas Water Development Board

Task 7 – Flood Response Information and Activities

- Summarize existing flood response preparations.
- Coordinate with entities in the region to gather information
- RFPGs do not perform analyses or other activities related to disaster response or recovery.



Texas State Guard Hurricane Harvey emergency response.

Image: Texas State Guard

Task 8 – Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations

- Develop policy recommendations to implement and achieve the RFPG's stated goals and plans.
- Consider potential new revenue-raising opportunities to fund flood activities in the region.



Image: TWDB

Task 9 – Flood Infrastructure Financing Analysis

- Survey and report on how sponsors propose to finance recommended FMEs and FMPs
- Include recommendations on the proposed role of the State in financing FMEs and FMPs



Dam on the Llano River under Hwy 16 in Llano, Texas.

Image: TWDB

Task 10 – Public Participation & Plan Adoption

Administrative activities not included in other tasks, including:

- Meeting preparations, notices, agendas, materials, minutes, presentations, and public comments
- Website creation and maintenance
- Intraregional and interregional coordination and communication to develop the regional flood plan.



TWDB flood outreach meeting in Bastrop, TX.

Image: TWDB



Image: Brent Hanson, U.S. Geological Survey. Public domain.

Questions? Comments?