

# LOWER RIO GRANDE REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP (REGION 15)

*Pre-Planning MEETING 2*

July 16, 2025



# AGENDA

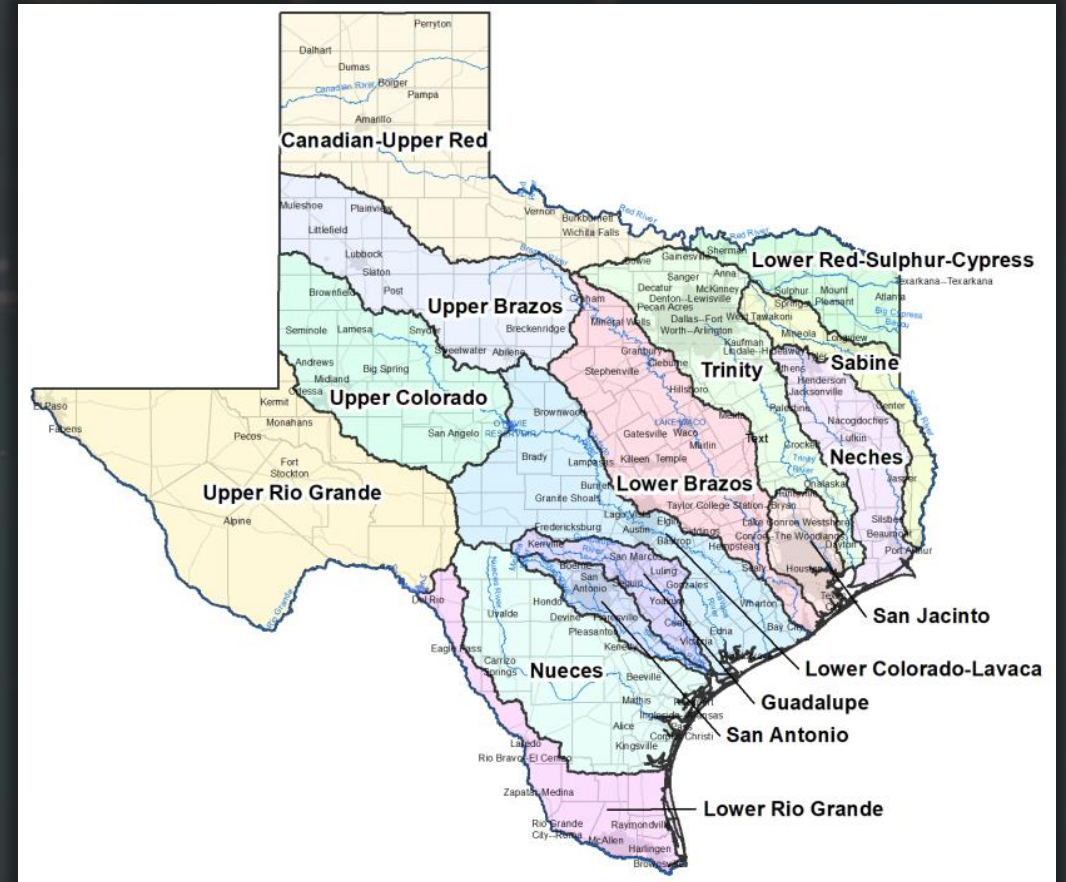
- ☐ Regional Flood Planning Overview
- ☐ Region 15
- ☐ Regional Flood Planning Group Members and Planning Team
- ☐ Roles and Responsibilities
- ☐ Scope of Work
- ☐ Region 15 Cycle 1 Highlights
- ☐ 2025 Regional Flood Plan Amendment
- ☐ Data Collection Efforts
- ☐ Upcoming FMX Submittal Window for 2028 Cycle
- ☐ Public Comments



# REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING OVERVIEW

# REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING

- In 2019, the 86th Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 8
- SB8 provides a process for first-of-its-kind statewide flood planning
- Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) charged with implementing SB8
- 15 watershed-based planning regions
- Bottom-up approach to flood planning
- Transparent process with public input



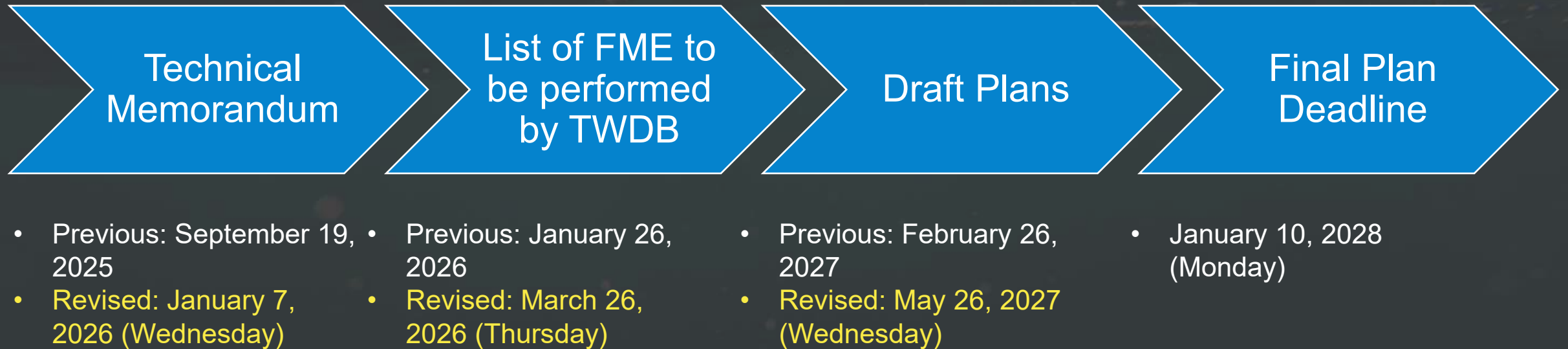
Find your RFPG Information, Meeting Schedules & Important Documents here:

<https://www.twdb.Texas.gov/flood/planning/index.asp>

Or, <https://www.region15lrg.org>



# FLOOD PLANNING TIMELINE AND PROPOSED SCHEDULE CHANGES





# REGION 15 – LOWER RIO GRANDE



# REGION 15 – LOWER RIO GRANDE

## Counties Represented:

Brooks\*

Cameron

Dimmit\*

Edwards\*

Hidalgo

Jim Hogg\*

Kenedy\*

Kinney\*

Maverick\*

Starr

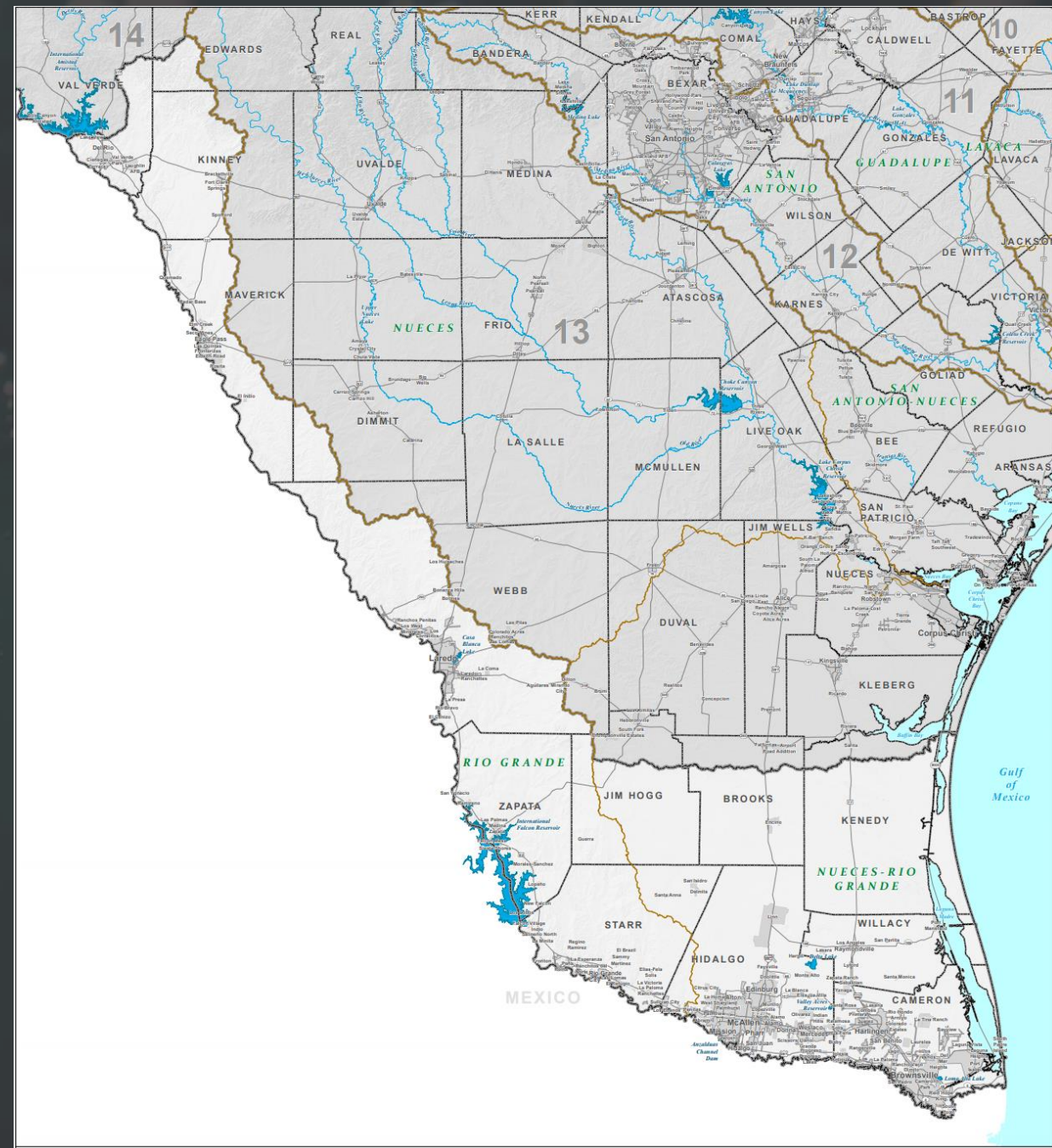
Val Verde

Webb\*

Willacy

Zapata

*\* denotes partially included*





# REGION 15 – LOWER RIO GRANDE

**Population Estimate:**

>2 Million

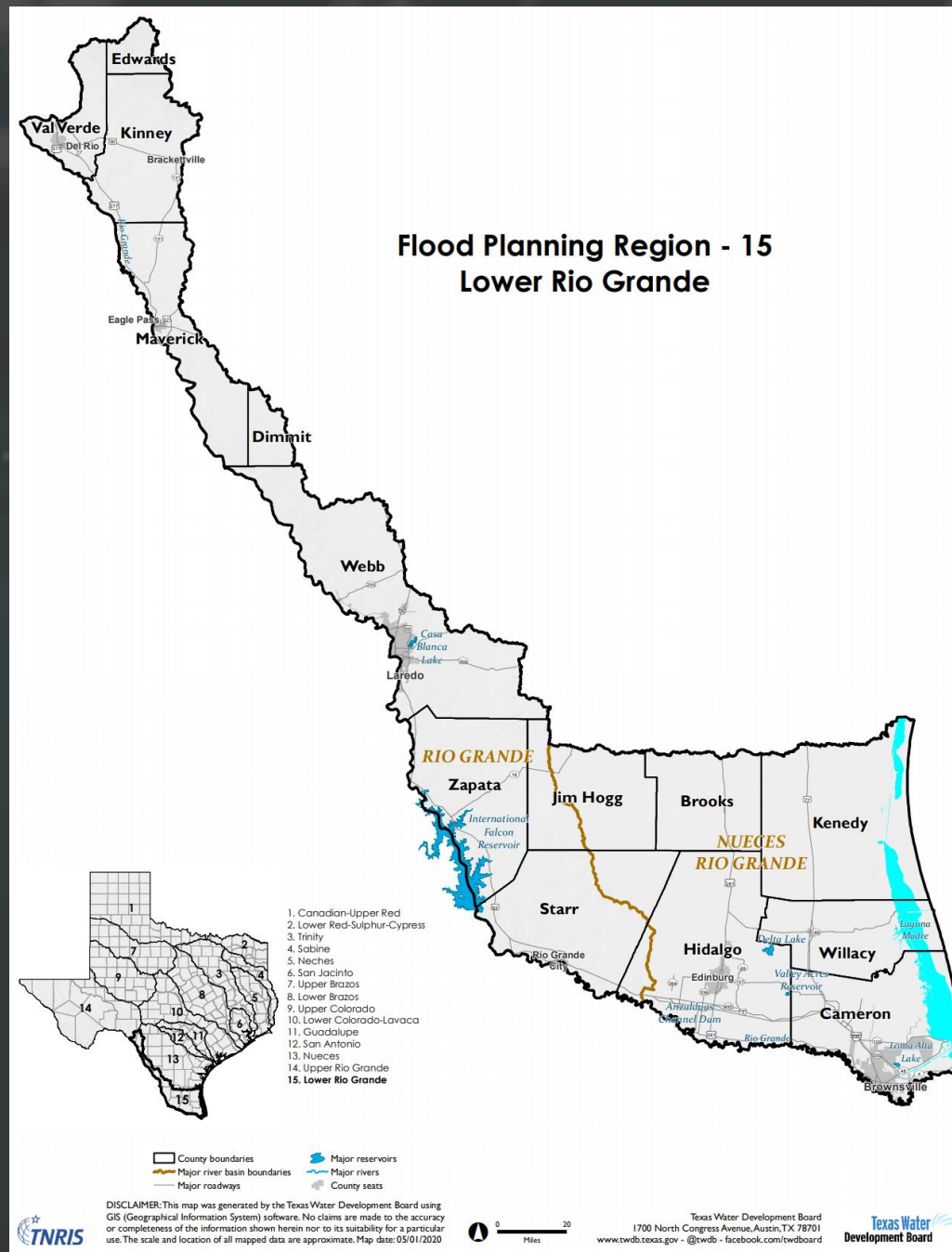
**Approx. Area:**

43,204 Sq. Miles

**Approx. Stream Miles:**

5,300

**FEMA Flood Claims: \$197.7 Million**  
(from 1984 - Jan 2021)





# **REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS AND PLANNING TEAM**

# REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS (VOTING)

Name	Interest Category	Entity
Vacant	Agricultural	
David A. Garza	Counties	Cameron County
Raul Pena Jr.	Counties	Starr County
Eduardo Gonzalez	Counties	Willacy County
Daniel Lucio	Electric Generating Utilities	AEP Texas
Hudson DeYoe	Environmental	University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
Vacant	Flood Districts	Cameron County Drainage District No. 5
David L. Fuentes	Flood Districts	Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1
Joey Trevino	Industries	Rio Grande Valley Chapter of Associated General Contractors of America
Rene Estrada	Municipalities	City of Combes
Joe Califa	Public	Self
Jose Caso, Laura Haley	Small Business	Caso Law Firm, PLLC, Haley Law Firm, PLLC
Vacant	Water Districts	
Vacant	Water Utilities	

# REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP MEMBERS (NON-VOTING)

Name	Title	Entity
Nick Collins	Regional Flood Planner	Texas Water Development Board
Ramon Macias III	Principal Engineer	IBWC, US Section
Shonda Mace	Planner	General Land Office
Willy Cupit	Natural Resources Specialist	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Lupita Trinidad- Ramos	Homeland Security Planner III	South Texas Development Council
Tim Frere	Hazard Mitigation Planner	Texas Department of Emergency Management
Nelda Barrera	Field Representative	Texas Department of Agriculture
Adrian Perez	Field Representative	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
Manny Cruz	Executive Director	Lower Rio Grande Development Council
David Ramirez	Area Director – Border & Permian Basin	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

# REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP SPONSOR



Hidalgo County  
Drainage District  
No. 1



# TECHNICAL CONSULTANT TEAM



CONSULTANT  
TEAM



**Kristina Leal, PE, CFM**  
Project Manager



**BLACK & VEATCH**



**Anne Whitko, CFM**  
Deputy Project Manager





# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES



# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Adopt and submit the Regional Flood Plan by January 10, 2028
- Prepare for and participate in regular meetings and workshops
- Solicit and consider public and stakeholder input
- Re-Visit Region 15 Floodplain Management Goals
- Review and provide feedback on consultant deliverables





# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

## Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1

- ☐ Administrative agent for the Region 15 Regional Flood Planning Group (RFPG)
- ☐ Procure and manage the efforts of the technical consultant
- ☐ Support the planning process

## Halff Team

- ☐ Perform the data collection
- ☐ Facilitate outreach activities and public engagement meetings
- ☐ Facilitate discussions regarding plan deliverables
- ☐ Evaluate, analyze, map, identify, recommend and/or list flood risk, floodplain management practices, FMEs, FMSs, FMPs, and their impacts
- ☐ Develop the technical memorandum, the draft plan, and the final plan



# ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Provide historical, asset, and policy data
- Participate in outreach activities and public engagement meetings
- Inform RFPG of issues and concerns
- Provide input and recommendations to RFPG to consider
- Review and comment on Draft Regional Flood Plan and Amendments
- Plan Implementation





# SCOPE OF WORK

# 2028 Plan Task Overview

Task 1 – Planning Area Description

Task 2A – Existing Conditions Flood Risk Analysis

Task 2B – Future Conditions Flood Risk Analysis

Task 3A – Floodplain Management Practices

Task 3B – Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis

Previously Task 4A

Task 3C – Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals

Previously Task 3B

**Task 4A – Identification and Evaluation of Potential FMXs**

Previously Task 4B

Task 4B – Prepare and Submit Technical Memorandum

Previously Task 4C

**Task 4C – Performance of Identified FMEs**

Previously Task 12



**FMS**

Flood Management Strategy



**FME**

Flood Mitigation Evaluation



**FMP**

Flood Mitigation Project

# 2028 Plan Task Overview

Task 5A – Recommendation of FMXs

Task 5B – Recommend a List of FMEs to be Performed by TWDB

- **NEW TASK:** Identify FMEs for TWDB to perform. Develop estimated scope and fee associated with each FME and provide TWDB with relevant information

Task 6A – Impacts of Regional Flood Plan

Task 6B – Contributions/Impacts on Water Supply

Task 7 – Flood Response Information and Activities

Task 8 – Admin, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations

Task 9 – Flood Infrastructure Financing Analysis

Task 10 – Public Participation and Plan Adoption

Task 11 – Implementation and Comparison to Previous Flood Plan

- **NEW TASK:** Describe changes since the previous cycle and progress intended to be made in upcoming years.



**FMS**

Flood Management Strategy



**FME**

Flood Mitigation Evaluation



**FMP**

Flood Mitigation Project

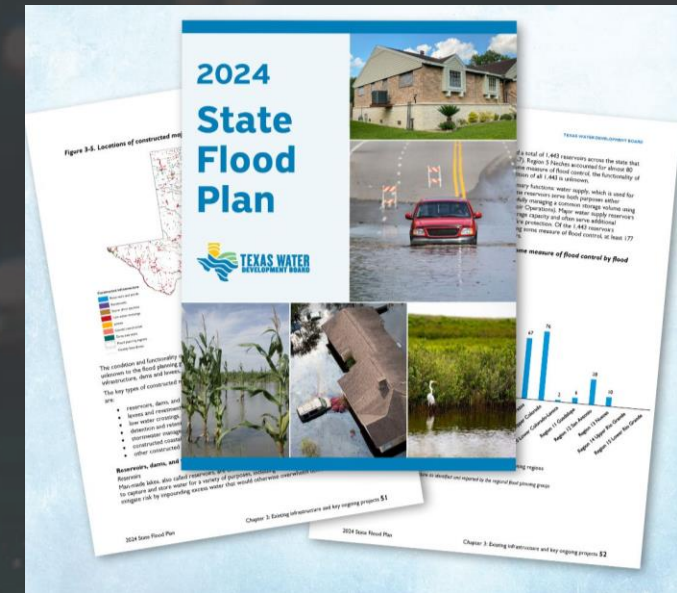


# REGION 15 – CYCLE 1 HIGHLIGHTS

# 2024 STATE FLOOD PLAN

Adopted by TWDB on August 15, 2024

The plan was brought to the State Legislature in September 2024



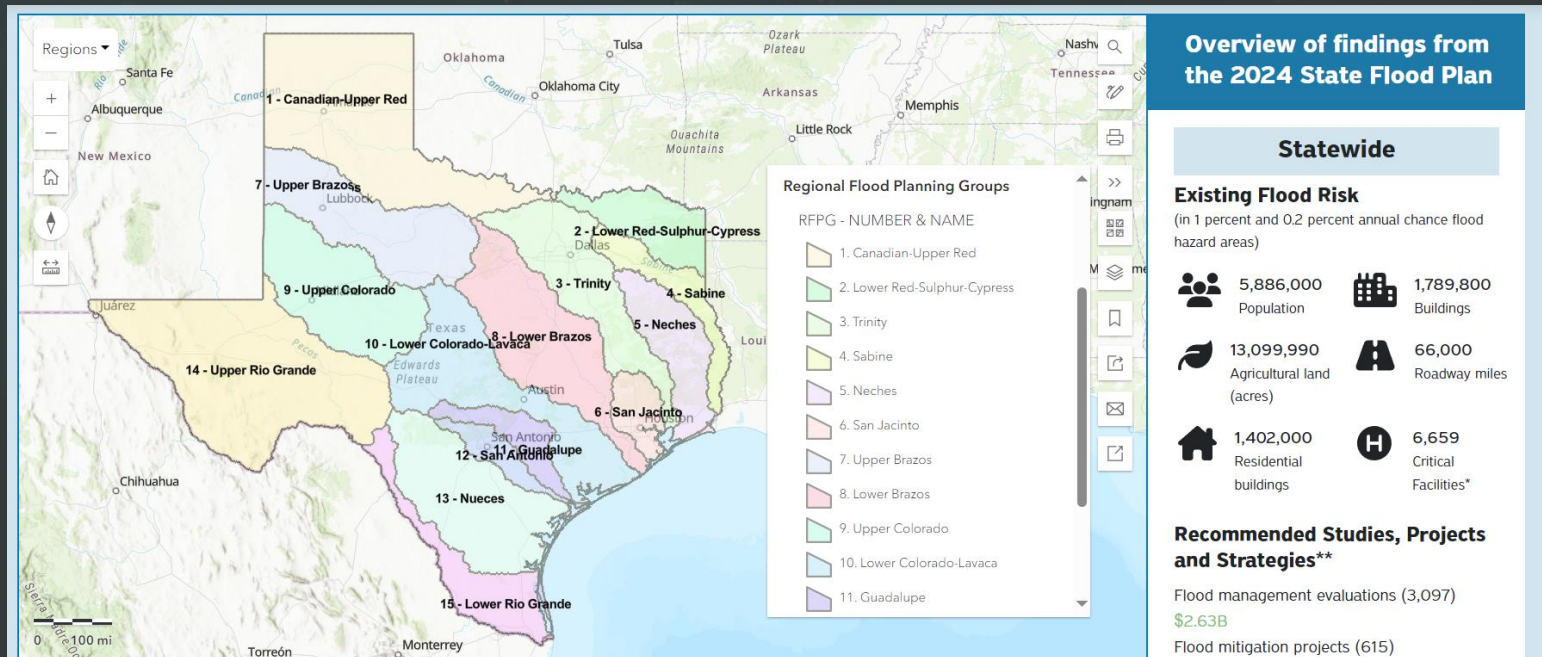
# 2024 STATE FLOOD PLAN

texasstatefloodplan.org

► Read the 2024 State Flood Plan

## Interactive State Flood Plan Viewer

View and download the extensive dataset generated by the statewide flood planning program, including flood risk and recommended flood risk reduction solutions.





# 2024 REGION 15 FLOOD PLAN

FMXs Identified and Recommended in Amended RFP

FMX Type	# of FMXs Recommended	Total Cost of Recommended FMXs
FME	406	\$227 M
FMP	94	\$968 M
FMS	86	\$151 M
Total	586	\$1.35 B



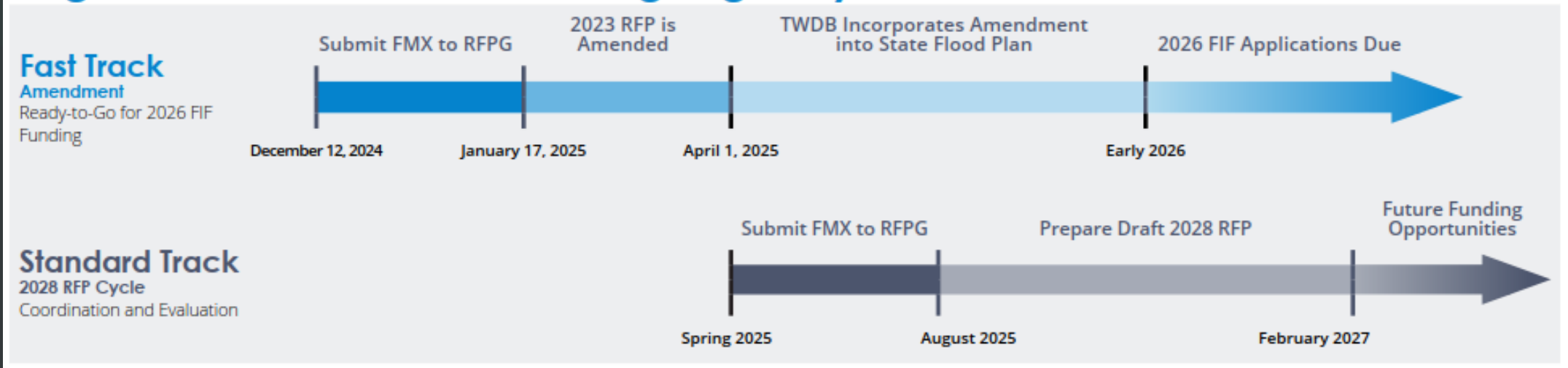
# 2025 REGIONAL FLOOD PLAN AMENDMENT



# PLAN AMENDMENT OUTREACH

- Halff developed and distributed an informational flyer and submittal checklist to over 100 stakeholders across the 14-county planning region, establishing more than 125 individual points of contact through direct outreach beyond initial mass communications.
- The amendment is currently under review by TWDB for incorporation into the State Flood Plan.

## Region 15 Path to State Funding Eligibility



# UPDATES TO FMX COSTS:

FMX Type	Previous Total Cost	Amended Total Cost
FME (+89)	\$227 M	\$270 M
FMP (+11)	\$968 M	\$1.26 B
FMS (+35)	\$151 M	\$170 M
Total (+135)	\$1.35 B	\$1.70 B



# DATA COLLECTION EFFORTS



# LOWER RIO GRANDE BASIN DATA COLLECTION

## Submit Flood Area Locations

- General public
- Organizations/Groups
- Non-profit & non-governmental organizations
- Allows for records of flood risk areas to aid flood planning efforts

<http://lowerriogrande.halff.com>

### Member of the Public?

**Public Stakeholders** in the RFGP process include general public individuals, groups, and organizations including non-profit and non-governmental organizations with an interest in providing information to support flood planning efforts.

By providing your name, address, and email address, you can help provide the RFGP with localized knowledge of flood prone areas and areas where flood mitigation is needed. Your contact information is used to document who is providing information in case we have any follow-up questions.

Once you enter your information, an interactive web map of the region will open. A search feature in the lower right corner of the map enables you to zoom to a particular address. Using the add feature tool, you can leave one or more location pins including a comment or description about flood issues/concerns.

Name	<input type="text"/>
Address	<input type="text"/>
Email	<input type="text"/>

[Take me to the map](#)



# LOWER RIO GRANDE BASIN DATA COLLECTION

- The Data Collection Survey shared in February 17, 2025
- The Survey will be closing on **July 25, 2025**

**Public Web Map**

Editable Layers  
Click on Shape to Add

- Flood Prone Areas
- Road Flooding Locations

**Road Flooding Questions**

Zoom to

1. How often does the area flood?

Once a year

2. Does this crossing have a common/colloquial name?

3. Do you have any other comments?

road flooding, >2-ft

Submit

Map labels: Belvedere Dr, Town Branch, E 6th St, E 7th St, Southern Pacific Linear Park, E 8th St, E 9th St, E Harrison St, Cameron County Courthouse, 31 ft



# **UPCOMING FMX SUBMITTAL WINDOW FOR THE 2028 CYCLE**



# UPCOMING FMX SUBMITTAL WINDOW FOR THE 2028 CYCLE

## Requirements for FME & FMS:

- Detailed description and service area
- Estimated cost to perform the FME or FMS



### FMS

Flood Management Strategy



### FME

Flood Management Evaluation



# UPCOMING FMX SUBMITTAL WINDOW FOR THE 2028 CYCLE

## Requirements for FMP:

- Detailed description and service area
- Estimated cost to perform the FMP
- Benefit-cost ratio and supporting documentation
- Project benefits (e.g., number of structures and length of roads removed from the 100-year flood risk)
- **No negative impact analysis** as per TWDB guidelines (Exhibit C – Technical Guidelines for Regional Flood Planning, Section 3.6.A)
- Supporting **model** and engineering **report** affirming the **no negative impact analysis** for all proposed FMPs



**FMP**

Flood Mitigation Project



# COMMENTS



# PUBLIC COMMENT

- Public meeting will be held in **late summer/early fall**

## 4 WAYS TO COMMENT

1. Limit any comments to 3 minutes each
2. Provide written comments to:  
**Jaime.Salazar@hcdd1.org**. Include Region 15 in the subject line.
3. [www.region15lrg.org](http://www.region15lrg.org) – Public Comments Page
4. <https://lowerriogrande.halff.com> – Member of the Public square



YOUR INPUT IS  
IMPORTANT.