

LOWER RIO GRANDE REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP MEETING

RFPG Meeting

Agenda Items No. 7, 8, and 9

December 10, 2025

AGENDA

- ❑ Task 3C – Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals
- ❑ Task 4B – Technical Memorandum

Task 3C: Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals



TASK 3C – FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT GOALS

Specific Goal Statements

Category 1. Flood Infrastructure Projects

Reduce flood risk and mitigate flood hazards to life and property through the implementation of structural flood infrastructure projects.

Specific Goal Statements	Measurement	Short Term (2033)	Long Term (2053)	Short Term (2038)	Long Term (2058)	Preliminary Approx. Baseline Measurement
Increase the number of nature-based flood risk reduction projects Proposed re-write: Increase the number of nature-based flood risk reduction projects included in the Regional Flood Plan that have at least).	Percent of nature-based flood risk reduction projects relative to projects that are not nature-based Proposed: % of FMPs that include nature-based solutions (>50%)	20%-30%	>50%	10-20%	>25%	~3% (3 of 106)
Proposed to remove: Reduce the number of newly constructed vulnerable critical facilities within the existing 1% annual chance floodplain event. – this is already required for NFIP participants for existing conditions	Percent of critical facilities in the region within the existing or future 1% annual chance floodplain	70%	100%			12% (current % of critical facilities in floodplain, not limited to "newly constructed")
Proposed to remove: Increase community access routes to critical facilities and evacuation routes during and after a flooding event – hard to analyze benefits b/c structures are not being removed – consider whether this belongs in RFP; also difficult to obtain data to evaluate	Percent of residential areas with safe access routes during and after flooding events	Perform Study to Establish Baseline	2 x the baseline percentage			?
Increase the number of entities that provide regional detention that could be used for water reuse applications or as part of their floodplain management program	Percent of entities that provide regional detention as part of their floodplain management program	30%	>60%	30%	>60%	22%



TASK 3C – FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT GOALS

Category 2. Flood Warning and Readiness

Improve the dissemination of information regarding early flood recognition and danger, emergency response procedures, and post-flood recovery actions.

Specific Goal Statements	Measurement	Short Term (2033)	Long Term (2053)	Short Term (2038)	Long Term (2058)	Preliminary Approx. Baseline Measurement
Develop a regionally coordinated warning and emergency response program, which shall at a minimum involve coordination with the County, to detect the flood threat and provide timely warning of impending flood danger to the most populated areas of the region.	Percent of LRG Planning Region population covered by a warning and emergency response program – <i>revise measurement to be based on number of entities covered</i>	40%-50%	>70%	60%	>70%	0%
<i>Proposed to remove:</i> Increase the number of flood gauges (rainfall/stream) in the region. – <i>possibly redundant if goal is to support establishing flood warning systems; also, there are no FMXs linked to this goal and the total number of gages may not be meaningful, need watersheds supported by a gage and that information is not readily available and easy to track.</i>	Percent of watershed and streams with active gauges – <i>difficult to measure, time-consuming to analyze; what defines 100% coverage</i>	30%-40%	>70%			65 current gages within Region 15 (up from 8 in 2021)
Increase the number of entities that use reverse 911, TV, radio, social media, and billboards to communicate flood warnings, evacuation routes, and shelter locations –	Percent of entities using real-time media services and/or reverse 911 to warn of flood risks, evacuation routes, and shelter locations	>40%	>70%	>40%	>70%	18%
Increase the number of entities that integrate National Weather Service and USGS Texas Water Science Center (TXWSC) flood warning system information into their local capabilities to disseminate warnings – <i>Proposed to merge with emergency warning system goal. Say “best available data” as opposed to calling out sources</i>	Percent of entities integrating NWS and TXWSC flood warning system information into their systems	>30%	>50%			22%



TASK 3C – FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT GOALS

Category 3. Flood Studies and Analysis

Increase the number and extent of regional flood planning evaluations/studies (FMEs) and analyses to identify flood risk and better prepare entities for implementing flood mitigation projects.

Specific Goal Statements	Measurement	Short Term (2033)	Long Term (2053)	Short Term (2038)	Long Term (2058)	Preliminary Approx. Baseline Measurement
Proposed to remove: Decrease the average age of FEMA Flood Insurance Rate Maps used to define SFHAs in the region. – many factors out of RFPG control (levee certification is a major issue), not feasible. Instead focus on localized regional studies to develop FMPs	Percent of entities that have FIRM maps that are less than 20 years old	30%-40%	>70%			79% (401 FIRMs under 20 years (out of 506) – several will exceed 20 yrs of age in next couple of years
Increase the coverage of available flood hazard data in the region, including at ports of entry, airports, and seaports, by completing studies with identified construction projects to address flooding hazards in areas identified as having gaps in flood mapping data.	Percent of entities that have completed studies less than 10 years old	30%-40%	>70%	50%	>70%	18%
Proposed to remove: Develop and maintain an operational stormwater asset management plan. Data not easy to locate for tracking	Percent of entities that utilize a stormwater asset management plan	40%-50%	>70%			?



TASK 3C – FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT GOALS

Category 4. Guidance

Increase the number and extent of protective regulatory measures and programs to limit future risk and reduce flood damage in the flood planning region.

Specific Goal Statements	Measurement	Short Term (2033)	Long Term (2053)	Short Term (2038)	Long Term (2058)	Preliminary Approx. Baseline Measurement
Increase the number of the Lower Rio Grande Planning Region communities participating in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).	Percent of communities participating in the NFIP	100%	Maintain	95%	100%	91%
Increase the number of entities that adopt higher than NFIP-minimum standards	Percent of entities that adopt higher than NFIP min. stds. Baseline measured from doc review, online research, and higher standards survey (TFMA)	40%-50%	60%-70%	40%-50%	60%-70%	18%
Increase participation in the Community Rating System (CRS) by encouraging the Lower Rio Grande Planning Region floodplain management programs to incorporate dedicated drainage fees to implement future FMEs and FMPs, incorporate non-compliance penalties, and who regulate development in the future conditions floodplain	Percent of entities participating in the CRS program	30%-40%	>50%	5% (State participation)	6.6% (National Average)	2%
Proposed to remove: Increase the number of entities that have multi-year drainage CIP list – difficult to track, many org. don't plan 20-yr out	Percent of entities with 20-yr drainage CIP	>40%	>70%			5%



TASK 3C – FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT GOALS

Category 5. Property Acquisition, Structure Elevation, and Floodproofing

Reduce the amount of existing and future vulnerable properties within the FPR through property/easement acquisition, improved elevation, and other flood proofing programs and initiatives.

Specific Goal Statements	Measurement	Short Term (2033)	Long Term (2053)	Short Term (2038)	Long Term (2058)	Preliminary Approx. Baseline Measurement
Reduce the number of structures that have been subject to repeated flooding events through property buyouts.	Estimated \$ value of benefits incurred through property buyout programs annually	\$10 M	\$50 M	>\$1M	>\$3M	<\$1M (buy-outs have occurred on isolated occasions in region but not annually)
Increase the acreage of publicly protected open space in critical flood risk areas that are reused for a beneficial public use.	Designated park space within the floodplain (100-yr)	<300,000 Acres	600,000-800,000 Acres	>10,000 acres	>20,000 acres	4,075 acres
Proposed to remove: Increase the amount of publicly owned land in the region that can be utilized for future regional stormwater infrastructure – data difficult to obtain and track; what is owned and what is planned to be used for stormwater?	Percent increase in county-owned land in the region	>30%	>50%			?



TASK 3C – FLOODPLAIN MANAGEMENT GOALS

Category 6. Education and Outreach

Increase the amount of flood education and outreach opportunities to improve awareness of flood hazards and future participation throughout the flood planning region (FPR).

Specific Goal Statements	Measurement	Short Term (2033)	Long Term (2053)	Short Term (2038)	Long Term (2058)	Preliminary Approx. Baseline Measurement
Increase the number of outreach and education activities, specifically targeting municipal floodplain managers throughout Region 15, hosted by Region 15 RFPG and available on the website	Percent increase in the number of outreach activities posted on the Region 15 website (Need to develop an implementation strategy)	20%-30%	60%	40%	>50%	~4/yr posted on Reg. 15 site
Increase the number of entities and public stakeholders participating in the regional flood planning process.	Number of entities that either submitted FMXs, completed surveys, or that provided comments during mtgs or on draft docs)	30%-40%	>70%	30 entities	>34 entities	20 entities
Increase the proficiency of floodplain managers by increasing the number of them certified as Certified Floodplain Managers (CFM) with the Texas Floodplain Management Association.	Percent of entities that have floodplain managers with CFMs	>25%	>70%	50%	>70%?	12% (8 of 66)

Task 4B: Preparation and submission of Technical Memorandum



TASK 4B: TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

What is the Technical Memorandum?

- It's a mid-point report showing draft materials and interim decisions.
- **Not final**—information may be incomplete and may change before the final plan.
- Intended to demonstrate progress toward developing the Regional Flood Plan.
- Deadline: **January 7, 2026**

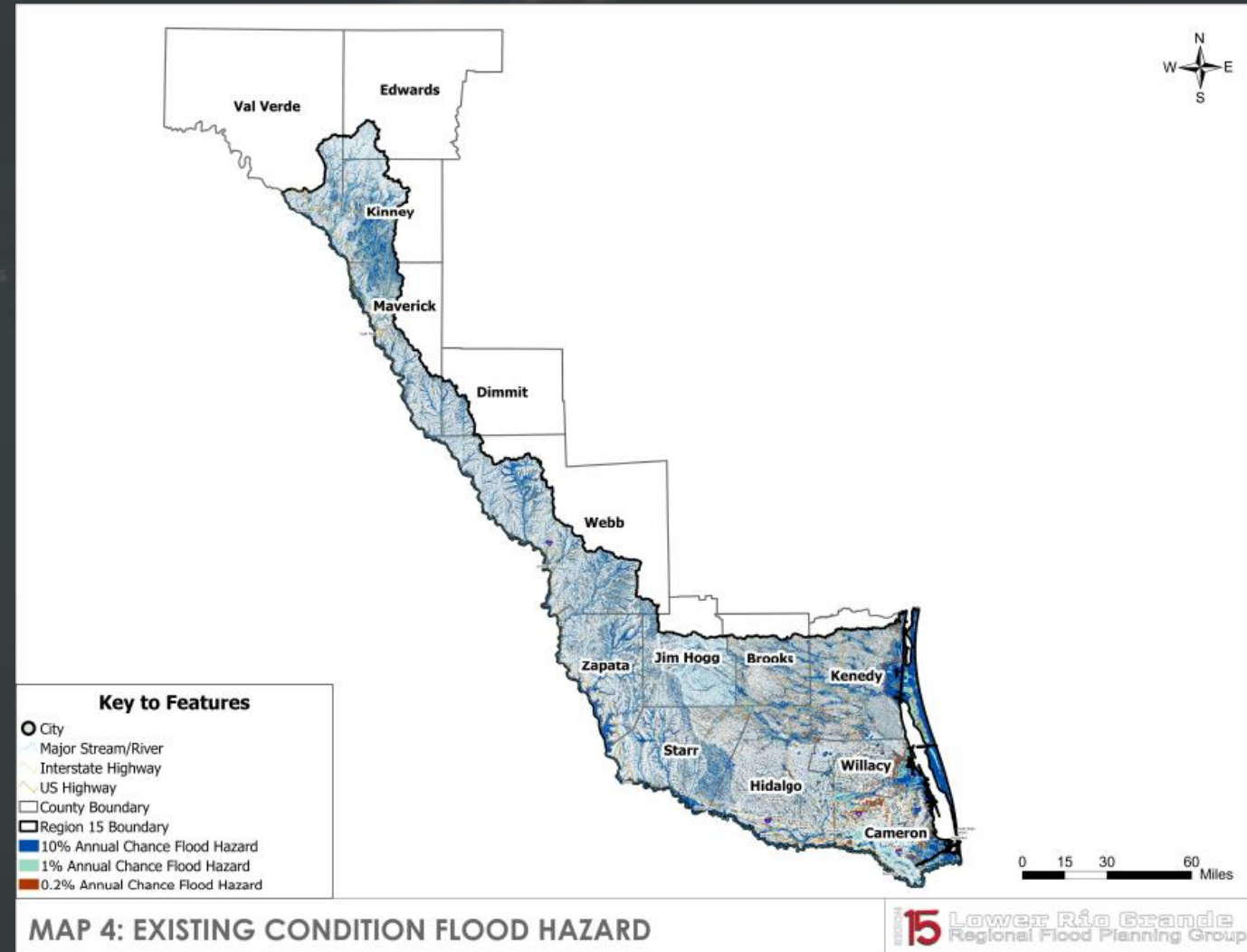
15 Lower Rio Grande Regional Flood Planning Group		TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM - DRAFT
TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM		
To:	Mr. Bryan McMath Executive Administrator Texas Water Development Board P.O. Box 13231 Austin, TX 78711-3231	
Through:	Jaime J. Salazar Operations Manager Hidalgo County Drainage District No. 1 902 N. Doolittle Edinburg, TX 78542	
From:	Halff Associates, Inc 5000 West Military Hwy, Ste. 100 McAllen, TX 78503	
subject:	Region 15 Lower Rio Grande Regional Flood Plan, Technical Memorandum	
date:	January 7, 2026	
<p>In accordance with Texas Administrative Code §361.13 regarding the Regional Flood Planning Group Deliverables, contained in this draft technical memorandum, the interim datasets required for review for the Lower Rio Grande Regional Flood Planning Group (RFPG), Region 15. All required submittal components for the Technical Memorandum are briefly described in the next sections and contained in the Appendix as Attachments. Table 2 on page 10 indicates which subtasks and information is contained in each Attachment.</p>		



TASK 4B: TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

What is included in the Technical Memorandum?

- Task 1: Planning Area Description
 - Updated list of entities with flood-related authority and participation.
- Task 2: Flood Risk Analysis
 - Development of draft flood risk maps for 10%, 1%, and 0.2% ACE events.
 - Identify gaps in inundation mapping and known flood-prone areas.

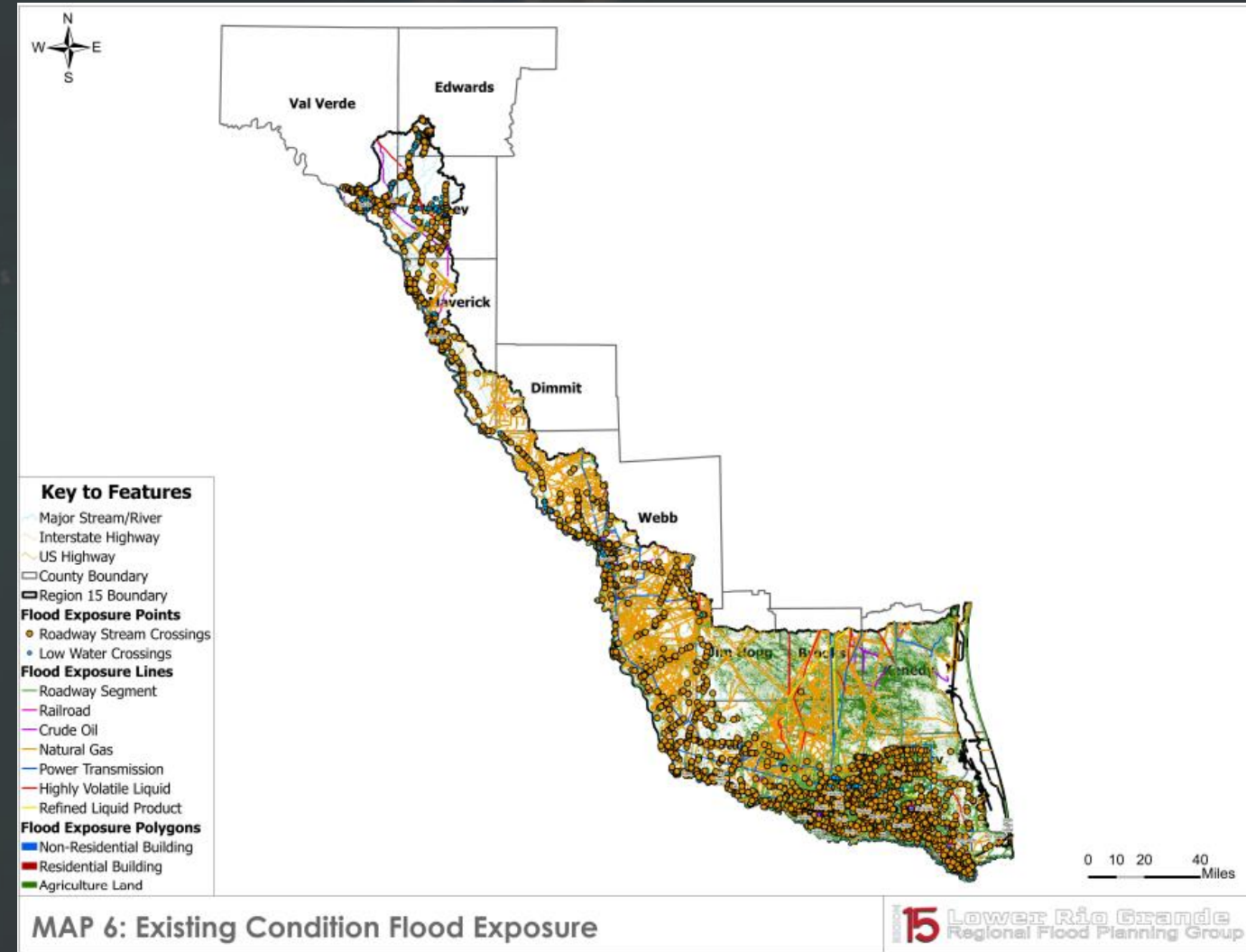




TASK 4B: TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

What is included in the Technical Memorandum?

- Task 2: Flood Risk Analysis
 - Assess flood exposure (people, property, critical facilities).
 - Evaluate vulnerability and critical infrastructure.





TASK 4B: TECHNICAL MEMORANDUM

What is included in Technical Memorandum?

- Task 3: Floodplain Management Practices, Needs Analysis, and Flood Protection Goals
 - Updated management practices & preliminary goals
- Task 4 – Assessment and Identification of Flood Mitigation Needs
 - Identified **879** potential flood mitigation actions (FMXs).





NEXT STEPS

- **Submittal of the Technical Memorandum in early January 2026**
- **List of FMEs to be performed by TWDB due March 26, 2026**