Appendix 10C
Draft RFP Public Hearing Documentation
Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is administering a new state and regional flood planning process with flood planning regions based on river basins. The initial regional flood planning groups were formed on October 1, 2020; the first regional flood plans will be due in January 2023, and the first state flood plan will be due September 1, 2024. The Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Plan identifies existing and future flood risks, as well as strategies for flood mitigation and identification of areas for future study. The Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Planning Group (RFPG) has unanimously approved the draft Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Plan. The TWDB will approve the final Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Plan by December 2023 and will prepare the statewide flood plan by September 2024.

In accordance with state law, the Upper Rio Grande RFPG is providing the public with the opportunity to comment on the draft plan. The 60-day comment period will begin on August 14, 2022 and will end on October 14, 2022. The draft plan is available on the Upper Rio Grande RFPG website:

[Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Planning Group Regional Draft Plan](http://example.com)

Public can view the plan in person at three locations from August 14, 2022 through October 14, 2022:

- Rio Grande Council of Governments - (Contact: Annette Gutierrez, Executive Director)
  8037 Lockheed, Suite 100
  El Paso, Texas 79925
  915-533-0998

- Reeves County - (Contact: Jeff Bullard, Director, Emergency Management – Reeves County)
  County Courthouse
  1714 Schmidt Dr RM 326
  Pecos, Texas 79772
  432-287-0242

- Rio Grande Council of Governments - (Contact: Peggy O’Brien, Local Governments Manager)
  Marfa Activity Center
  105 N. Mesa
  Marfa, Texas 79843

Opportunity for public comment will include a public meeting held as outline below:

- September 14, 2022 at 5:00 PM, MDT at the Rio Grande Council of Governments (8037 Lockheed, Suite 100 El Paso, TX 79925)
- Phone participation is available for public and non-voting representatives by the conference call information: Call In: (877) 286-5733; Passcode / ID: 35631928#
- Video participation is available by clicking here on this hyperlink: [Click here to join the meeting](http://example.com)
- The meeting will allow the public to provide oral or written comments.

Written comments can be submitted via U.S. mail, email, or the Upper Rio Grande RFPG website:

- U.S. Mail – Rio Grande Council of Governments, ATTN: Annette Gutierrez, 8037 Lockheed, Suite 100, El Paso, TX 79925
- Email – annetteg@riocog.org

While the Upper Rio Grande RFPG is responsible for developing the draft plan, implementation of the specific recommendations and flood mitigation actions included in the plan will require action by local communities throughout Region 14.
The Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFPG is administered by the Rio Grande Council of Governments and the following members appointed by the TWDB:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voting Member</th>
<th>Interest Category</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dr. Zhuping Sheng</td>
<td>Agricultural interests</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gilberto Saldana Jr.</td>
<td>Counties</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>Electric generating utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jeff Bennett</td>
<td>Environmental interests</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sal Masoud</td>
<td>Industries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Javier Acosta</td>
<td>Municipalities</td>
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<tr>
<td>David “Dave” Hall</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carlos Arturo Velarde Fernandez</td>
<td>Public</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rene Rodriguez</td>
<td>Small business</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Omar L. Martinez</td>
<td>Water districts</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gisela Dagnino</td>
<td>Water utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Levi Bryant</td>
<td>Water utilities</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rick Tate</td>
<td>River authorities</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Non-voting Member</th>
<th>Agency</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>James Weaver</td>
<td>Texas Parks and Wildlife Department</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Judy Lucio</td>
<td>Texas Division of Emergency Management</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Larissa Place</td>
<td>Texas Department of Agriculture</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vacant</td>
<td>General Land Office/Region 14 Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Richard Bagans</td>
<td>Texas Water Development Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Anita Keese</td>
<td>Texas Commission on Environmental Quality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vanessa Rosales-Herrrera</td>
<td>Region 15 Liaison</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delbert Humberson</td>
<td>International Boundary Water Commission</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ben Wilde</td>
<td>Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board</td>
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Region 14 Upper Rio Grande Flood Plan
Draft Regional Flood Plan (RFP)
Public Feedback

09.14.2022
Agenda

• Welcome (Introductions to Planning Team)

• Brief Overview of Regional Flood Planning Process and Draft Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Plan

• Draft RFP Comments
Welcome

- Thank you for joining us!
Welcome

– Meet our planning team

**Omar Martinez**
Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group (URGRFPG) Chair
El Paso County Water Improvement District No. 1

**Annette Gutierrez**
Executive Director
Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) – RFP Sponsor

**Gilbert Andujo, PE, CFM**
Technical Consultant Project Manager
AECOM

**Chris Wright, PE, CFM**
Technical Consultant Lead Planner
AECOM

**Bryan Blaisdell, PE, GISP, CFM**
Technical Consultant Lead Planner
AECOM
Welcome

Meet our planning team (Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Members)

- **Agriculture:** Dr. Zhuping Sheng (Sheng Engineering PLLC)
- **Counties:** Gilbert Saldana, Jr. (El Paso County)
- **Environmental Interests:** Jeff Bennett (Rio Grande Joint Venture)
- **Industries:** Sal Masoud (Del Rio Engineering)
- **Municipalities:** Javier Acosta (FXSA)
- **Public:** Dave Hall
- **Public:** Carlos Arturo Velarde Fernandez (Val Verde County)
- **Small Business:** Rene Rodriguez
- **Water Districts:** Omar Martinez (EPCWID #1)
- **Water Utilities:** Gisela Dagnino (El Paso Water) (with Enrique Ochoa and Marvin Gomez as alternate members)
- **Water Utilities:** Levi Bryand (LCA, Inc.)
Overview of Regional Flood Planning Process
Overview of Regional Flood Planning Process

- Texas Senate Bill 8 (2019) established regional and state flood plans

- State organized into 15 flood planning groups

- Flood plans will be updated based on a five-year planning cycle
Overview of Regional Flood Planning Process

- Flood Planning Region 14 (Upper Rio Grande)

- 23 Counties in West Texas
  - Rio Grande from El Paso County to Amistad Reservoir
  - Pecos River from New Mexico border (Red Bluff Reservoir) to the Rio Grande
Overview of Regional Flood Planning Process

**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.

**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.

**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).

Four counties in Region 14 do not have FEMA floodplains, and may need an FME to develop detailed floodplain models.

Image: Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Planning Group General Meeting

El Paso Stormwater Project at Gateway East Pond
Image: AECOM presentation for El Paso County Stormwater Master Plan

Vegetated Sandbar Limiting Flow Capacity in the Rio Grande
Overview of Regional Flood Planning Process

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

State Flood Plan will rank recommended FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs statewide.

Future state financial assistance may be allocated using a to-be-determined prioritization criteria.*
Overview of Regional Flood Planning Process

**Project Roadmap**

- **Fall 2020**: Flood planning groups formed
- **Fall 2021**: Public Meeting (El Paso)
- **Spring 2022**: Feedback integrated into draft Regional Flood Plan
- **Winter 2022**: Adoption of Regional Flood Plan
- **Summer 2021 – Spring 2022**: Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning group and subcommittees meet
- **Spring 2022**: Public Meetings (Pecos & Presidio)
- **Summer 2022**: Draft Regional Flood Plan presented at public meeting
Overview of Draft Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Plan
Overview of Draft Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Plan

- Draft RFP submitted to Texas Water Development Board on August 1, 2022
- Posted on URGFP.org for public review online with physical copies available in three locations across the region (El Paso, Pecos, and Marfa)
- Public comment period is from August 14, 2022 to October 14, 2022
- Comments can be submitted during public meeting on September 14, 2022, or via U.S. mail and email:
  - U.S. Mail – Rio Grande Council of Governments, ATTN: Annette Gutierrez, 8037 Lockheed, Suite 100, El Paso, TX 79925
  - Email – annetteg@riocog.org
Chapter 1 – Introduction and Description of the Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Region

- Social and Economic Characteristics
- Agricultural & Natural Resources
- Historical Flooding
- Flood-Related Authorities & Regulation
- Existing Natural Flood Mitigation Features
- Constructed Major Flood Infrastructure
- Proposed or Ongoing Major Flood Infrastructure and Mitigation Projects
- Relevant Existing Planning Documents
Chapter 2 – Flood Risk Analyses

- Available Hydrologic and Hydraulic Models
- Existing and Future Conditions Analyses
  - 1% and 0.2% annual chance flood events evaluated using best available flood data
  - Flood hazards (location, magnitude, frequency)
  - Flood exposure (who and what might be harmed)
  - Flood vulnerabilities (areas most at risk to flooding including communities and critical facilities)
- Expected Loss of Function
Chapter 3 – Floodplain Management Practices and Goals

- Evaluation of Floodplain Management Practices
  - 75% of all eligible communities participate in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
  - City of El Paso is recognized for higher than minimum floodplain standards

- Recommendations for Minimum Standards and Best Practices

- Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals
  - Includes 21 short-term (10-year) goals and 7 long-term (30-year) goals for the region covering a wide range of flood mitigation and floodplain management needs
Chapter 4 – Identification of Flood Mitigation Needs and Solutions

- Flood Mitigation Needs Analysis
  - Map 14: Greatest Gaps in Flood Risk Information
  - Map 15: Greatest Flood Risk
- Process for Identifying Flood Mitigation Solutions
- Identification of FMEs
  - Map 16: Extent of Potential FMEs and Mapping Needs
- Identification of FMPs
  - Map 17: Extent of Potential FMPs
- Identification of FMSs
  - Map 18: Extent of Potential FMSs
- Appendices include evaluation tables and narratives for all identified FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs
Chapter 5 – Evaluation and Recommendation of Flood Solutions

- Evaluation & Recommendation of Flood Solutions
  - Summary of Evaluation Process for FMEs and FMSs without Project Specific Data
  - Methods for Evaluation of FMSs and FMPs with Project-Specific Data

- Summary of Recommendation Process

- Exhibit Maps include mapbooks with individual maps of each FME, FMP, and FMS

- Appendices include:
  - Narratives of analyses performed on project-specific FMSs and FMPs
  - “No negative impact” assessments
  - Recommendations tables for FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs
  - Comprehensive FMP impact summary table
Chapter 6 – Impacts and Contribution of Regional Flood Plan

- Impacts of Regional Flood Plan
  - FMPs and FMSs expected to remove **11,964** structures (population of **31,233**) from the 1% AC Floodplain
  - Recommended FMPs expected to remove **936** structures (population of **2,400**) from the 0.2% AC Floodplain
  - FMPs and FMSs expected to remove **41** Low Water Crossings from the 1% AC Floodplain

- Contributions to and Impacts on Water Supply Development and the State Water Plan
  - There are no recommended FMPs that would measurably contribute to water supply.
  - There is one recommended FMS which is estimated to contribute to water supply:
    - FMS ID: 142000002 - “Irrigation and Recharge Application of Captured Rainwater Runoff at Alpine.”
    - Recommended in the State Water Plan and the Far West Texas (Region E) Water Plan (Strategy E-2)
  - There are no FMPs or FMPs that are estimated to negatively impact water supply
Chapter 7 – Flood Response Information and Activities

- Summary of documents and activities related to three stages of flood emergency management including:
  - Flood preparedness
  - Flood response
  - Flood recovery

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Phase</th>
<th>General Definition</th>
<th>Example Activities (not an exhaustive list)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Flood mitigation</td>
<td>&quot;The implementation of actions, including both structural and non-structural solutions to reduce flood risk to protect against the loss of life and property.&quot; (Title 31 Texas Administrative Code §361.10(k))</td>
<td>See Technical Guidelines for Regional Flood Planning Section 3.2(2)(b) examples of structural and non-structural Flood Mitigation Projects.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood preparedness</td>
<td>Actions, aside from mitigation, that are taken before flood events to prepare for flood response activities</td>
<td>Developing emergency management and evacuation plans, preparing staging areas, and building flood early warning systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood response</td>
<td>Actions taken during and in the immediate aftermath of a flood event</td>
<td>Conducting evacuations, providing shelters, closing flooded roads, and operating flood warning systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood recovery</td>
<td>Actions taken after a flood event involving repairs or other actions necessary to return to pre-event conditions</td>
<td>Repairs to damaged infrastructure, storm event debris removal.</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 8 – Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations

-- Legislative Recommendations
  • El Paso County Area Stakeholders
    o 3 recommendations
  • Flood Planning Area Outside of El Paso County
    o 2 recommendations

-- Regulatory/Administrative Recommendations
  • El Paso County Area Stakeholders
    o 13 recommendations
  • Flood Planning Area Outside of El Paso County
    o 8 recommendations

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table E.5 Legislative Recommendations (El Paso County Area Stakeholders)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Need to address</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Burden on sponsors for levee certification is excessive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Counties perceive lack of ability to regulate drainage outside of FEMA floodplains</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Revolving state funds are not self-sustaining</td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Table E.6 Legislative Recommendations (Flood Planning Area Outside of El Paso County)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Need to address</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New federal requirements addressing historic preservation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Counties perceive lack of ability to regulate drainage outside of FEMA floodplains</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chapter 9 – Flood Infrastructure Financing Analysis

- **Sources of Funding for Flood Management Activities**
  - 58 Flood Mitigation Actions recommended ($160.3M)
  - Local, State, and Federal funding sources described
  - Barriers to funding discussed

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Flood Mitigation Action Type</th>
<th>Number of Recommended Actions</th>
<th>Anticipated Total Cost of Implementation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FME</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$7,510,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMP</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>$149,205,280</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FMS</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>$3,586,100</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>58</strong></td>
<td><strong>$160,301,380</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **Flood Infrastructure Financing Survey**
  - Online survey with 9 funding questions sent to all sponsors
  - 29 entities contacted, 11 responses (38% response)
  - Responses received for 46 of 58 (79%) FMEs/FMPs/FMSs

- **Proposed Role of State in Financing**
  - $153.8M (96% of funding needed) not anticipated to be local
Chapter 10 – Public Participation and Plan Adoption

- Summary of flood planning public participation activities including:
  - RFPG General Meetings
  - Open House Events
  - Media Releases and Online Access
  - Surveys

- Alignment of Draft RFP with Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Flood Planning Guidance Principles §362.3
Discussion of Draft RFP Comments