

Chapter 10: Public Participation and Plan Adoption




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10. Public Participation and Plan Adoption

This chapter summarizes the role of the Upper Rio Grande RFPG in the flood planning process and the various public participation, information, and outreach activities conducted by the RFPG during the development of the RFP. These activities demonstrate the RFPG's commitment to engaging with the public and other flood planning stakeholders and providing as many opportunities as possible for public input.

The chapter also describes the flood plan adoption process, including information on the submittal of the Draft RFP, the required public hearing, addressing public comments, and the adoption of the Final RFP.

10.1 RFPG Organization and Role in Flood Planning Process

The Upper Rio Grande RFPG is one of the 15 RFPGs formed by the TWDB on October 1, 2020, as a result of the passage of Texas Senate Bill 8 in 2019, which established the state and regional flood planning process. The RFPG's role and functions are defined in Texas Water Code (TWC) Chapter 16 and in Title 31 of the TAC Chapters 361 and 362. Among these functions, the Upper Rio Grande RFPG's primary responsibility is to identify and manage flood risks across the region to reduce the impacts of flooding to life, property, and infrastructure.

Voting members within the Upper Rio Grande RFPG represent ten interest groups (shown in **Table 10.1**), while non-voting members represent state agencies or other neighboring regional planning groups (shown in **Table 10.2**). All RFPG members are recognized for their important contributions to the 2023 Upper Rio Grande Regional Flood Plan.

Table 10.1 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Voting Members

Interest Group	Name	Entity	County	Alternate Member
Agriculture	Dr. Zhuping Sheng	Sheng Engineering PLLC	El Paso	N/A
Counties	Gilbert Saldana, Jr.	El Paso County	El Paso	N/A
Electric generating utilities	Vacant	N/A	N/A	N/A
Environmental Interests	Jeff Bennett	Rio Grande Joint Venture	Brewster	N/A
Industries	Sal Masoud	Del Rio Engineering	El Paso	N/A
Municipalities	Javier Acosta	FXSA	El Paso	N/A
Public	Dave Hall	N/A	El Paso	N/A
Public	Carlos Arturo Velarde Fernandez	Val Verde County	Val Verde	N/A
Small Business	Rene Rodriguez	N/A	El Paso	N/A
Water Districts	Omar L. Martinez	EPCWID #1	El Paso	N/A
Water Utilities	Gisela Dagnino	El Paso Water	El Paso	Enrique Ochoa, Marvin Gomez
Water Utilities	Levi Bryand	LCA, Inc.	Ector	N/A

Table 10.2 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Non-Voting Members

Non-Voting Member	Agency/Organization
James Weaver	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Judy Lucio	Texas Division of Emergency Management
Larissa Place	Texas Department of Agriculture
Elijah Casas	Texas General Land Office
Richard Bagans	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)
Anita Keese	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ)
Vanessa Rosales-Herrera	Region 15 Liaison
Delbert Humberson	U.S. International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC)
Ben Wilde	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board (TSSWCB)

Throughout the planning process, the RFPG formed several committees to focus on different aspects of the flood plan and provide recommendations to the overall planning group at general RFPG meetings. These committees included an executive committee and four topic-based subcommittees to examine specific parts of the RFP scope of work as listed below and summarized in **Table 10.3**:

- Subcommittee 1: Evaluation and Recommendations on Floodplain Management Practices/Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals (Tasks 3A and 3B, Chapter 3), shown in
- Subcommittee 2: Identification & Evaluation of Potential FMPs (Task 4, Chapter 4)
- Subcommittee 3: Identification & Evaluation of Potential FMEs and FMSs (Task 4, Chapter 4)
- Subcommittee 4: Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations (Task 8, Chapter 8)

The four subcommittees were formed by the RFPG on September 7, 2021, and included both voting and non-voting members from the RFPG. Subcommittee members are listed in **Table 10.4** through **Table 10.7**. General RFPG meetings and subcommittee meetings were all held in accordance with Open Meetings Act (OMA) requirements, as described in Section 10.2.2.

Table 10.3 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Committees

Committee	Number of Meetings
Executive Committee	1
Subcommittee 1 – Evaluation and Recommendations on Floodplain Management Practices/Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals (Task 3)	4
Subcommittee 2 – Identification & Evaluation of Potential FMPs (Task 4)	6
Subcommittee 3 – Identification & Evaluation of Potential FMEs and FMSs (Task 4)	4
Subcommittee 4 – Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations (Task 8)	3

Table 10.4 Subcommittee 1 Members (Evaluation and Recommendations on Floodplain Management Practices/Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals, Task 3)

Member	Interest Category	Member Type
Dave Hall, <i>Subcommittee 1 Chair</i>	Public	RFPG Voting Member
Carlos Arturo Velarde Fernandez	Public	RFPG Voting Member
Gilbert Saldana, Jr.	Counties	RFPG Voting Member
Gisela Dagnino	Water Utilities	RFPG Voting Member
Javier Acosta	Municipalities	RFPG Voting Member
Levi Bryand	Water Utilities	RFPG Voting Member
Omar L. Martinez	Water Districts	RFPG Voting Member

Table 10.5 Subcommittee 2 Members (Identification & Evaluation of Potential FMPs, Task 4)

Member	Interest Category	Member Type
Javier Acosta, <i>Subcommittee 2 Chair</i>	Municipalities	RFPG Voting Member
Carlos Arturo Velarde Fernandez	Public	RFPG Voting Member
Dave Hall	Public	RFPG Voting Member
Gilbert Saldana, Jr.	Counties	RFPG Voting Member
Gisela Dagnino	Water Utilities	RFPG Voting Member
Jeff Bennett	Environmental Interests	RFPG Voting Member
Levi Bryand	Water Utilities	RFPG Voting Member
Omar L. Martinez	Water Districts	RFPG Voting Member
Delbert Humberson	U.S. IBWC	RFPG Non-Voting Member

Table 10.6 Subcommittee 3 Members (Identification & Evaluation of Potential FMEs and FMSs, Task 4)

Member	Interest Category	Member Type
Sal Masoud, <i>Subcommittee 3 Chair</i>	Industries	RFPG Voting Member
Gisela Dagnino	Water Utilities	RFPG Voting Member
Jeff Bennett	Environmental Interests	RFPG Voting Member
Levi Bryand	Water Utilities	RFPG Voting Member
Omar L . Martinez	Water Districts	RFPG Voting Member
Delbert Humberson	U.S. IBWC	RFPG Non-Voting Member

Table 10.7 Subcommittee 4 Members (Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations, Task 8)

Member	Interest Category	Member Type
Omar L . Martinez, <i>Subcommittee 4 Chair</i>	Water Districts	RFPG Voting Member
Gilbert Saldana, Jr.	Counties	RFPG Voting Member
Gisela Dagnino	Water Utilities	RFPG Voting Member
Levi Bryand	Water Utilities	RFPG Voting Member
Sal Masoud	Industries	RFPG Voting Member
Anita Keese	TCEQ	RFPG Non-Voting Member
Delbert Humberson	U.S. IBWC	RFPG Non-Voting Member

The RFPG represents the interests of stakeholders throughout the flood planning region and functions in support of and in coordination with the TWDB to deliver the draft and final Regional Flood Plans. The RFPG responsibilities are outlined in 31 TAC §361.12 and include the following activities for every planning cycle:

1. Designate a political subdivision as a Planning Group Sponsor – in this planning cycle, the Planning Group sponsor was RGCOG.
2. Select a technical consultant(s) to be procured by the Planning Group Sponsor – in this planning cycle, the technical consultant was AECOM.
3. Hold at least one public meeting, to determine what, if any, additional public notice the RFPG determines is necessary to ensure adequate public notice in its own FPR. This meeting was held on November 5, 2020.
4. Hold public meetings at central locations readily accessible to the public within the FPR to gather general suggestions and recommendations from the public. These meetings are discussed further in Section 10.2.2.
5. Approve the contract(s) and any subsequent amendments thereto between the Planning Group Sponsor and the technical consultant or TWDB Scope(s) of Work or budgets in open

meetings. The original contract was approved and executed on June 11, 2021, and the contract amendment was approved and executed on March 25, 2022.

10.2 Public Information and Engagement

The Upper Rio Grande RFPG encouraged broad, regionwide public participation throughout the flood planning process. All RFPG activities and RFP updates were posted and accessible to the public with opportunities for public feedback. Flood planning stakeholders and the public were engaged throughout the process across several modes of outreach as described in the following section. The RFPG met all requirements under the Texas Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act.

10.2.1 Media Releases and Online Access

Media releases about the flood planning process were produced and distributed to local media organizations across the region. These media releases resulted in an estimated media reach of nearly 3 million through print, digital, and broadcast media stories, targeting the areas of El Paso, Pecos, Presidio, Alpine, Marfa, and Fort Davis. Additional public outreach was conducted by state media outlets.

The Upper Rio Grande RFPG maintains a flood planning website (www.urgfpg.org) with information for the public regarding past and upcoming RFPG meetings, open house events, planning documents, RFPG members, and public comment submission. Interested parties are encouraged to sign up to receive public meeting notices and other flood planning updates by email. Additional information regarding the state flood planning process is also available at the TWDB's flood planning website (www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/index.asp).

10.2.2 Public Meetings

RFPG Meetings

The Upper Rio Grande RFPG held several meetings between November 2020 and January 2023 to discuss relevant RFP topics, conduct pre-planning and administrative activities, receive updates from the technical consultant, and vote on specific measures. All meetings were posted and held in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act (OMA) with a copy of all materials presented or discussed available for public inspection prior to and following public meetings.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, selected OMA provisions were temporarily suspended by the Office of the Texas Governor, and public meetings were initially held fully online via GoToWebinar and Microsoft Teams. Once these temporary suspensions were lifted, RFPG meetings were conducted in-person at the RGCOG office in El Paso with a virtual option for the convenience and safety of attendees. Public attendance was encouraged, and each meeting included a scheduled time for public comments or questions. In addition, all meetings were recorded and posted online on the RFPG website along with the associated meeting minutes for public access following the meetings. **Table 10.8** provides an overview of all general RFPG meetings conducted during the first planning cycle. Meeting minutes from the RFPG general meetings and subcommittee meetings are provided in **Appendix 10A**.

Table 10.8 Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Meetings

Meeting Number	Date	Meeting Location	Agenda Highlights
0.1	November 5, 2020	GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting	Pre-Planning Meeting
0.2	January 21, 2021	GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting	Pre-Planning Meeting
0.3	March 16, 2021	GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting	Pre-Planning Meeting
0.5	April 9, 2021	GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting	Executive Committee Meeting
0.5	April 15, 2021	GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting	Pre-Planning Meeting
0.6	May 20, 2021	GoToWebinar Virtual Meeting	Pre-Planning Meeting
1	August 5, 2021	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Introduction to Consultant Team; Flood Plan Outline; Discussion of Tasks 1-2
2	September 7, 2021	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Discussion of Tasks 1-2; RFPG Approval of Subcommittees 1-4
3	October 15, 2021	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Discussion of Tasks 1-4; Stakeholder Coordination; El Paso Open House Meeting Preview; Updates from Subcommittee 1-3 Meetings
4	November 2, 2021	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Discussion of Tasks 1-4; Stakeholder Coordination Results; El Paso Open House Meeting Recap; Updates from Subcommittee 1 and 3 Meetings
5	November 30, 2021	El RGCOG, Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Discussion of Tasks 1-4; RFPG Approval of (1) Recommendations on Floodplain Management Standards, (2) Adoption of Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals, and (3) Process to Identify and Evaluate Potential FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs
6	December 16, 2021	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Updates from Subcommittee 2 Meeting; RFPG Adoption of Technical Memo and Authorization of Consultant to submit Technical Memo to TWDB
7	February 2, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Discussion of Tasks 4-5; Pecos and Presidio Open House Meeting Preview; Updates from Subcommittee 2-3 Meetings; RFPG Approval of (1) Refinements to list of Identified FMEs and FMSs and (2) Refinements to FMP Prioritization Method
8	February 28, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Discussion of Tasks 4-5 and 8 focusing on evaluation of FMEs and FMSs; Pecos and Presidio Open House Meeting Recap; RFPG Approval of Technical Memo March 7 th Deliverables and Authorization of Consultant to submit Deliverables to TWDB
9	March 15, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Discussion of Tasks 4-5 focusing on evaluations of FMPs
10	April 21, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Discussion of Tasks 4-5 focusing on evaluations of FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs; RFPG Approval of Recommendations for FMPs

Meeting Number	Date	Meeting Location	Agenda Highlights
11	May 25, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Discussion of Tasks 4-5 and 8; RFPG Approval of (1) Recommendations for FMPs and (2) Revision of Flood Mitigation and Floodplain Management Goals
12	June 30, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Review of Draft RFP Chapters
13	July 13, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Review of Draft RFP Chapters
14	July 20, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Review of Draft RFP Chapters; RFPG Approval of (1) Draft RFP Deliverables and Authorization of Consultant to Submit Deliverables to TWDB and (2) Recommendations for FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs
15	July 26, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Review of Draft RFP Chapters
16	July 28, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Review of Draft RFP Chapters; RFPG Approval of Chapter 8 Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations
17	September 14, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Discussion on potential FMEs to perform during Task 12 RFP amendment phase
18	November 15, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Initial discussion of TWDB and public comments on Draft RFP; Discussion of Stakeholder Coordination for Task 12 (FMEs for Amended RFP); RFPG Approval of FMEs to study in Task 12
19	December 6, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	Review of TWDB/public comments and draft responses to comments on Draft RFP; Discussion of Task 12; RFPG Approval of changes to Task 12 FMEs
20	December 15, 2022	RGCOG, El Paso, TX / Microsoft Teams	RFPG Adoption of Final RFP and Authorization of Consultant to Submit Final Deliverables to TWDB

Open House Meetings and Hearings

In addition to the regular RFPG and committee meetings, several public open house meetings were held throughout the region to facilitate engagement with the public and other flood planning stakeholders. Due to the region's large size, three locations relatively central to the region were identified to host these public open house meetings, including the Cities of El Paso, Pecos, and Presidio.

An initial pre-planning meeting was held in El Paso on July 25, 2021, to receive preliminary feedback from the public on important issues to be considered as part of the RFP. In addition, over the course of the flood planning process, four open house meetings were conducted on the following dates:

- Open House Meeting in El Paso: October 27, 2021
- Open House Meeting in Pecos: February 9, 2022
- Open House Meeting in Presidio: February 10, 2022

- Open House Meeting in El Paso: June 8, 2022

At each of these open house meetings, flood maps from the region were shared to allow community members the opportunity to identify any potential flood risks that had not previously been captured on the maps. Public feedback from these meetings was used during the development of flood prone areas discussed in *Chapter 2 (“Flood Risk Analyses”)*. These meetings were also utilized to gather general suggestions and recommendations from the public as to issues, provisions, and types of FMSs, FMPs, and FMEs that should be considered for potential inclusion in the first-cycle RFP. The final open house meeting in El Paso was utilized to gather public feedback on the potential recommended FMSs, FMPs, and FMEs discussed in *Chapter 5 (“Evaluation and Recommendation of Flood Solutions”)*. Public notifications for each open house meeting were advertised in local newspapers and on social media.

A Public Hearing was held in El Paso on September 14, 2022, to receive public feedback on the Draft RFP. Details of this public hearing are included with **Appendix 10C**.

10.2.3 Surveys

The RFPG conducted a stakeholder survey from September to October 2021 to obtain flood-related information from the public and other flood planning stakeholders. The survey was posted on the RFPG website and emailed directly to stakeholders, who were also contacted by the RFPG and technical consultant and encouraged to participate in the survey. In addition to stakeholder-specific questions, the survey included general flood-related questions to solicit feedback from the public related to overall flood experiences and issues of concern. A copy of the survey results is provided for reference in **Appendix 10B**.

In addition, an interactive web map was developed to collect feedback from the public regarding flood prone areas, critical infrastructure or resources, existing infrastructure, and existing or proposed flood mitigation projects. The interactive web map was shared as part of the stakeholder survey and at public open house meetings.

10.2.4 Draft RFP Review and Final Adoption

The Draft RFP was approved by the RFPG on July 20, 2022, and submitted to the TWDB for review. The Draft RFP was released for public review with a 60-day comment period between August 14, 2022, and October 14, 2022. In addition, a Public Hearing was held on September 14, 2022, to receive public comments. Printed copies of the Draft RFP were located in three publicly accessible locations in the region including the cities of El Paso, Pecos, and Presidio. The Draft RFP was also posted to the RFPG website for public review, and public comments were accepted electronically during the public review and comment period.

All comments from the TWDB on the Draft RFP are provided in **Appendix 10D** followed by RFPG responses to these comments. Public comments received during the 60-day comment period are summarized (along with responses) in **Appendix 10E**, including comments from the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RGCOG) and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). During the Public Hearing on September 14, 2022, the RFPG met with members of the public to clarify the purpose and content included in the RFP; however, no additional formal comments requiring changes to the RFP were received from the public during this meeting.

The Final RFP was adopted by the RFPG on December 15, 2022, and submitted to the TWDB along with supporting materials on January 10, 2023. The RFP was submitted in accordance with the contractual, statute, and rule requirements.

10.3 Flood Planning Guidance Principles

The state and regional flood planning process is guided by 39 principles adopted in Title 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §362.3. This RFP conforms with each of these flood planning guidance principles, including the requirement that the plan will not negatively affect any neighboring areas. Specifically, each of the principles are aligned with one or more of the RFP report sections as outlined in **Table 10.9**. In addition, the RFP adequately provides for the preservation of life and property in the region.

Table 10.9 Alignment of RFP with Guidance Principles

Guidance Principle (“The regional and state flood plans: …”)		RFP Section(s)
1	shall be a guide to state, regional, and local flood risk management policy;	Chapter 3, Chapter 8
2	shall be based on the best available science, data, models, and flood risk mapping;	Chapter 1, Chapter 2, Chapter 4/5
3	shall focus on identifying both current and future flood risks, including hazard, exposure, vulnerability and residual risks; selecting achievable flood mitigation goals, as determined by each RFPG for their region; and incorporating strategies and projects to reduce the identified risks accordingly;	Chapter 2, Chapter 3, Chapter 4/5
4	shall, at a minimum, evaluate flood hazard exposure to life and property associated with 0.2 percent annual chance flood event (the 500-year flood) and, in these efforts, shall not be limited to consideration of historic flood events;	Chapter 2
5	shall, when possible and at a minimum, evaluate flood risk to life and property associated with 1.0 percent annual chance flood event (the 100-year flood) and address, through recommended strategies and projects, the flood mitigation goals of the RFPG (per item 2 above) to address flood events associated with a 1.0 percent annual chance flood event (the 100-year flood); and, in these efforts, shall not be limited to consideration of historic flood events;	Chapter 2, Chapter 4/5
6	shall consider the extent to which current floodplain management, land use regulations, and economic development practices increase future flood risks to life and property and consider recommending adoption of floodplain management, land use regulations, and economic development practices to reduce future flood risk;	Chapter 3
7	shall consider future development within the planning region and its potential to impact the benefits of flood management strategies (and associated projects) recommended in the plan;	Chapter 1, Chapter 2
8	shall consider various types of flooding risks that pose a threat to life and property, including, but not limited to, riverine flooding, urban flooding, engineered structure failures, slow rise flooding, ponding, flash flooding, and coastal flooding, including relative sea level change and storm surge;	Chapter 1, Chapter 2
9	shall focus primarily on flood management strategies and projects with a contributing drainage area greater than or equal to 1.0 (one) square miles except in instances of flooding of critical facilities or transportation routes or for other reasons, including levels of risk or project size, determined by the RFPG;	Chapter 4/5

	Guidance Principle (“The regional and state flood plans: …”)	RFP Section(s)
10	shall consider the potential upstream and downstream effects, including environmental, of potential flood management strategies (and associated projects) on neighboring areas. In recommending strategies, RFPGs shall ensure that no neighboring area is negatively affected by the regional flood plan;	Chapter 4/5, Chapter 6
11	shall include an assessment of existing, major flood mitigation infrastructure and will recommend both new strategies and projects that will further reduce risk, beyond what existing flood strategies and projects were designed to provide, and make recommendations regarding required expenditures to address deferred maintenance on or repairs to existing flood infrastructure;	Chapter 1, Chapter 4/5
12	shall include the estimate of costs and benefits at a level of detail sufficient for RFPGs and sponsors of flood mitigation projects to understand project benefits and, when applicable, compare the relative benefits and costs, including environmental and social benefits and costs, between feasible options;	Chapter 4/5
13	shall provide for the orderly preparation for and response to flood conditions to protect against the loss of life and property and reduce injuries and other flood-related human suffering;	Chapter 7
14	shall provide for an achievable reduction in flood risk at a reasonable cost to protect against the loss of life and property from flooding;	Chapter 4/5
15	shall be supported by state agencies, including the TWDB, General Land Office, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and the Texas Department of Agriculture, working cooperatively to avoid duplication of effort and to make the best and most efficient use of state and federal resources;	Chapter 10
16	shall include recommended strategies and projects that minimize residual flood risk and provide effective and economical management of flood risk to people, properties, and communities, and associated environmental benefits;	Chapter 4/5
17	shall include strategies and projects that provide for a balance of structural and nonstructural flood mitigation measures, including projects that use nature-based features, that lead to long-term mitigation of flood risk;	Chapter 4/5
18	shall contribute to water supply development where possible;	Chapter 6
19	shall also follow all regional and state water planning guidance principles (31 TAC 358.3) in instances where recommended flood projects also include a water supply component;	Chapter 6
20	shall be based on decision-making that is open to, understandable for, and accountable to the public with full dissemination of planning results except for those matters made confidential by law;	Chapter 10
21	shall be based on established terms of participation that shall be equitable and shall not unduly hinder participation;	Chapter 10
22	shall include flood management strategies and projects recommended by the RFPGs that are based upon identification, analysis, and comparison of all flood management strategies the RFPGs determine to be potentially feasible to meet flood mitigation and floodplain management goals;	Chapter 4/5
23	shall consider land-use and floodplain management policies and approaches that support short- and long-term flood mitigation and floodplain management goals;	Chapter 3
24	shall consider natural systems and beneficial functions of floodplains, including flood peak attenuation and ecosystem services;	Chapter 3, Chapter 4/5
25	shall be consistent with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) and shall not undermine participation in nor the incentives or benefits associated with the NFIP;	Chapter 2, Chapter 3
26	shall emphasize the fundamental importance of floodplain management policies that reduce flood risk;	Chapter 3

	Guidance Principle (“The regional and state flood plans: …”)	RFP Section(s)
27	shall encourage flood mitigation design approaches that work with, rather than against, natural patterns and conditions of floodplains;	Chapter 3, Chapter 4/5
28	shall not cause long-term impairment to the designated water quality as shown in the state water quality management plan as a result of a recommended flood management strategy or project;	Chapter 6
29	shall be based on identifying common needs, issues, and challenges; achieving efficiencies; fostering cooperative planning with local, state, and federal partners; and resolving conflicts in a fair, equitable, and efficient manner;	Chapter 10
30	shall include recommended strategies and projects that are described in sufficient detail to allow a state agency making a financial or regulatory decision to determine if a proposed action before the state agency is consistent with an approved regional flood plan;	Chapter 4/5
31	shall include ongoing flood projects that are in the planning stage, have been permitted, or are under construction;	Chapter 1
32	shall include legislative recommendations that are considered necessary and desirable to facilitate flood management planning and implementation to protect life and property;	Chapter 8
33	shall be based on coordination of flood management planning, strategies, and mitigation projects with local, regional, state, and federal agencies projects and goals;	Chapter 10
34	shall be in accordance with all existing water rights laws, including but not limited to, Texas statutes and rules, federal statutes and rules, interstate compacts, and international treaties;	Chapter 6
35	shall consider protection of vulnerable populations;	Chapter 2, Chapter 4/5
36	shall consider benefits of flood management strategies to water quality, fish and wildlife, ecosystem function, and recreation, as appropriate;	Chapter 4/5, Chapter 6
37	shall minimize adverse environmental impacts and be in accordance with adopted environmental flow standards;	Chapter 4/5, Chapter 6
38	shall consider how long-term maintenance and operation of flood strategies will be conducted and funded; and	Chapter 9
39	shall consider multi-use opportunities such as green space, parks, water quality, or recreation, portions of which could be funded, constructed, and or maintained by additional, third-party project participants.	Chapter 4/5