

Appendix 10C

Draft RFP Public Hearing Documentation



UPPER RIO GRANDE FLOOD PLANNING

Draft Regional Flood Plan Available for Public Comment

Region 14 – Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group

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](#)

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](#)*
- *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.



UPPER RIO GRANDE FLOOD PLANNING

The Region 14 Upper Rio Grande RFPG is administered by the Rio Grande Council of Governments and the following members appointed by the TWDB:

Voting Member

Dr. Zhuping Sheng
Gilberto Saldana Jr.

Vacant

Jeff Bennett

Sal Masoud

Javier Acosta

David "Dave" Hall

Carlos Arturo Velarde
Fernandez

Rene Rodriguez

Omar L. Martinez

Gisela Dagnino

Levi Bryand

Rick Tate

Interest Category

Agricultural interests

Counties

Electric generating utilities

Environmental interests

Industries

Municipalities

Public

Public

Small business

Water districts

Water utilities

Water utilities

River authorities

Non-voting Member

James Weaver

Judy Lucio

Larissa Place

Vacant

Richard Bagans

Anita Keese

Vanessa Rosales-
Herrera

Delbert Humberson

Ben Wilde

Agency

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Texas Division of Emergency
Management

Texas Department of Agriculture

General Land Office/Region 14 Liaison

Texas Water Development Board

Texas Commission on Environmental
Quality

Region 15 Liaison

International Boundary Water
Commission

Texas State Soil and Water Conservation
Board

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!*



Upper Rio Grande
Flood Planning



The Rio Grande
Council of Governments

AECOM

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

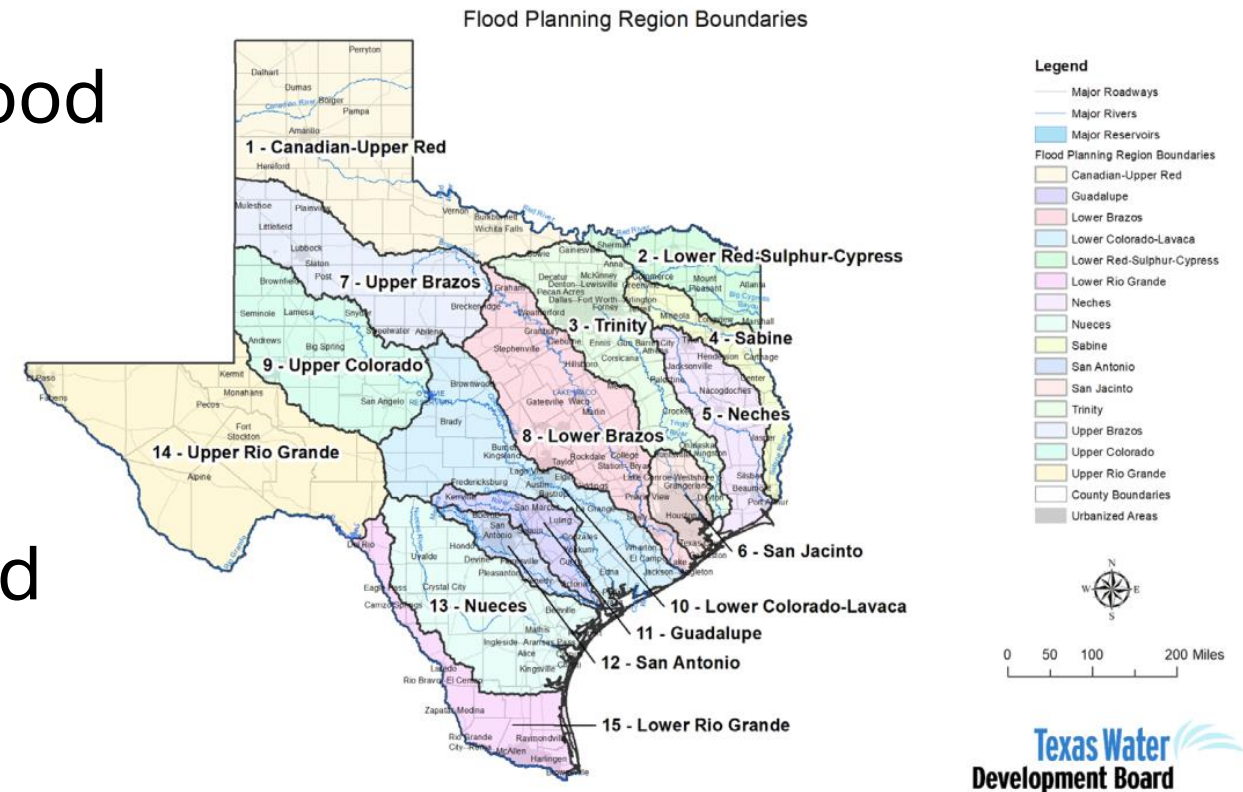
– Meet our planning team (Upper Rio Grande Flood Planning Group Members)

- **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.)

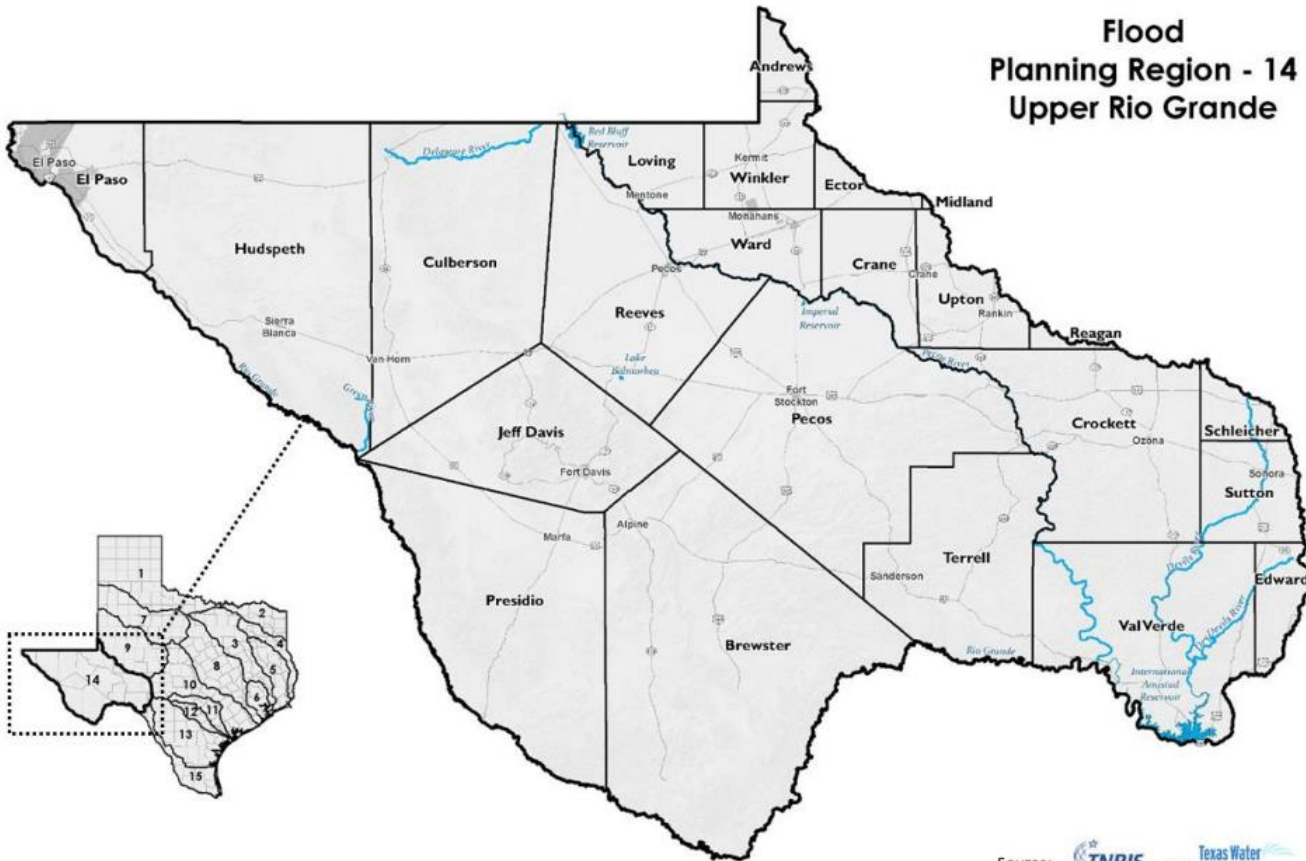
Overview of Regional Flood Planning Process

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



Source:  

- 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
Image: "Evaluation of Reduced Flow Capacity of the Rio Grande and the Impacts on the Operations of the Rio Grande Project Leasburg Dam to American Dam" (Joint Committee on Rio Grande Project Flood Risk (2019)

Overview of Regional Flood Planning Process



Created by Andrijo Kirma
from Noun Project

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



Created by Creative Stall
from Noun Project

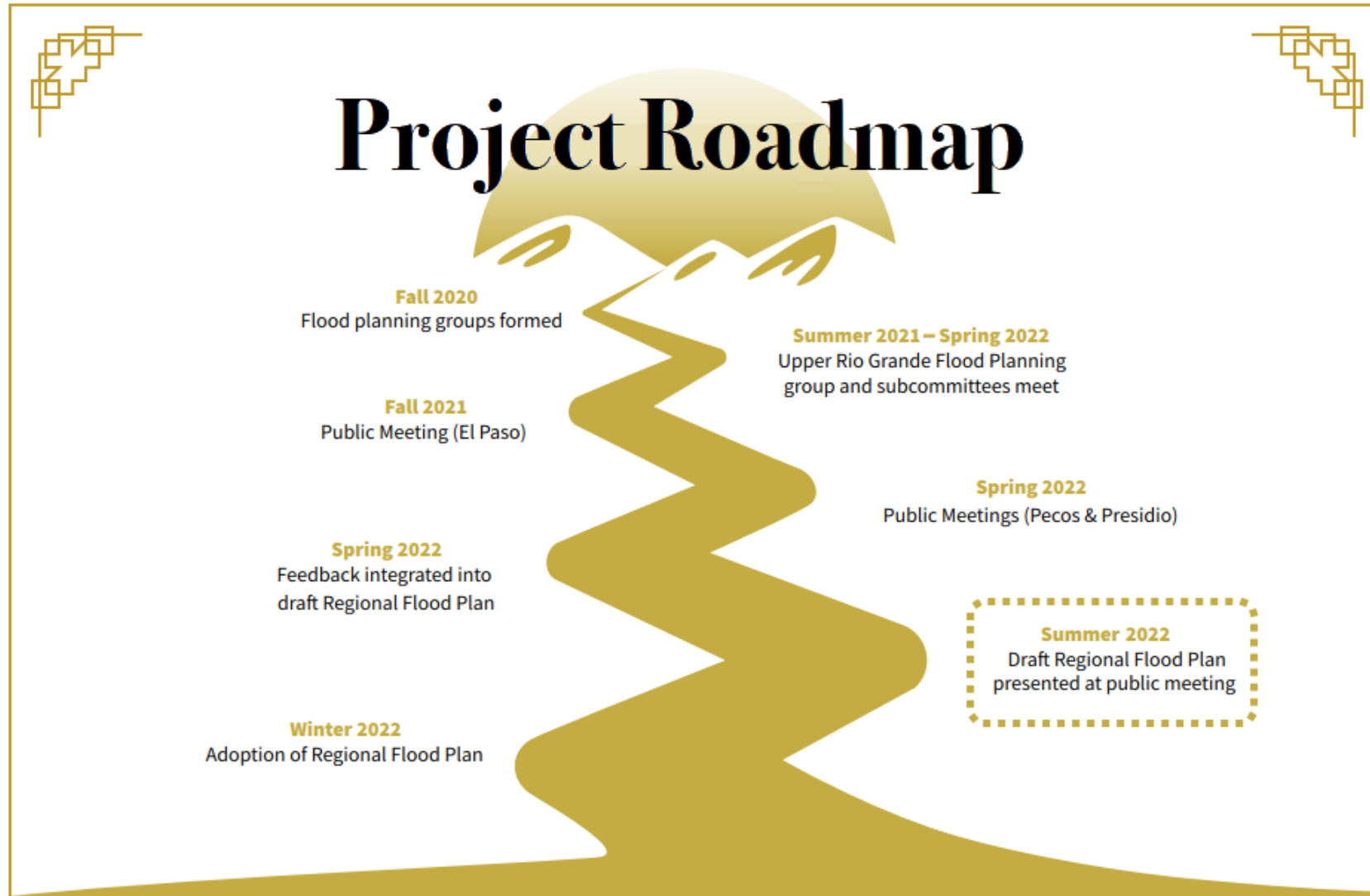
State Flood Plan will rank recommended FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs statewide



Created by Alice Design
from Noun Project

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

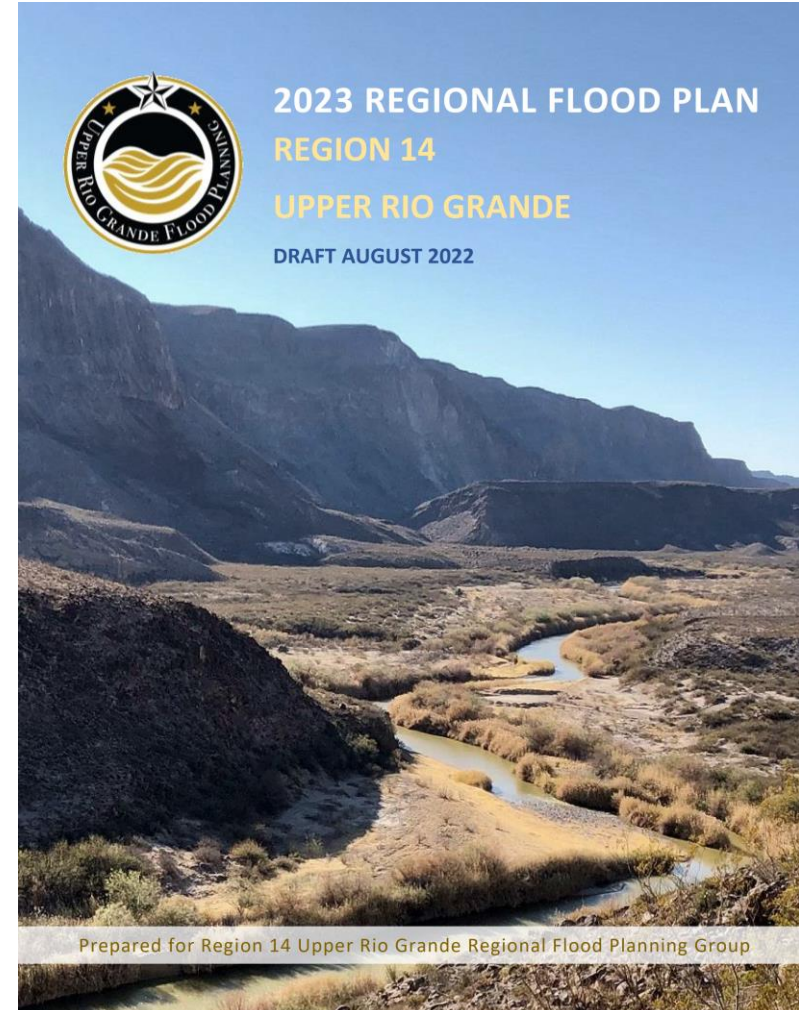
Overview of Regional Flood Planning Process



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](https://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

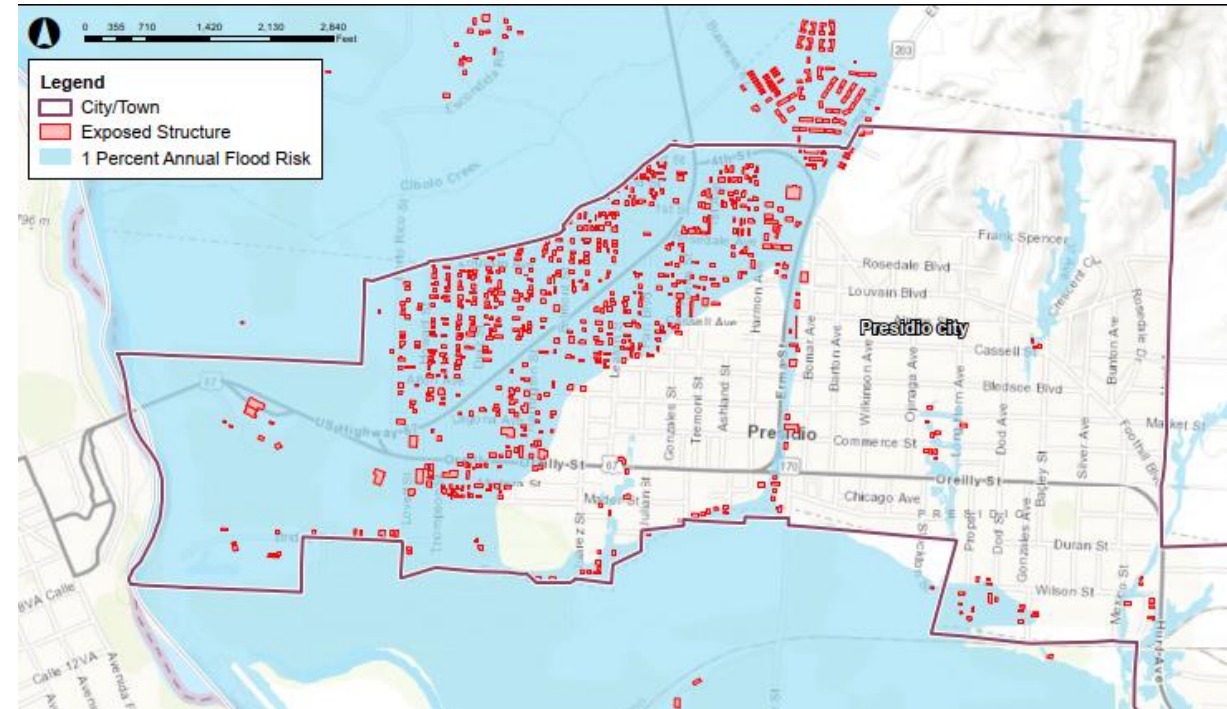
- Social and Economic Characteristics
- Agricultural & Natural Resources
- Historical Flooding
- Flood-Related Authorities & Regulation
- Existing Natural Flood Mitigation Features
- Constructed Major Flood Infrastructure
- Proposed or Ongoing Major Flood Infrastructure and Mitigation Projects
- Relevant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



April 2004 flood caused this I-20 bridge over Salt Draw to collapse, located between Toyah and Pecos. Source: DAA and NWS; https://www.weather.gov/maf/2004_04_02_SevereWeather

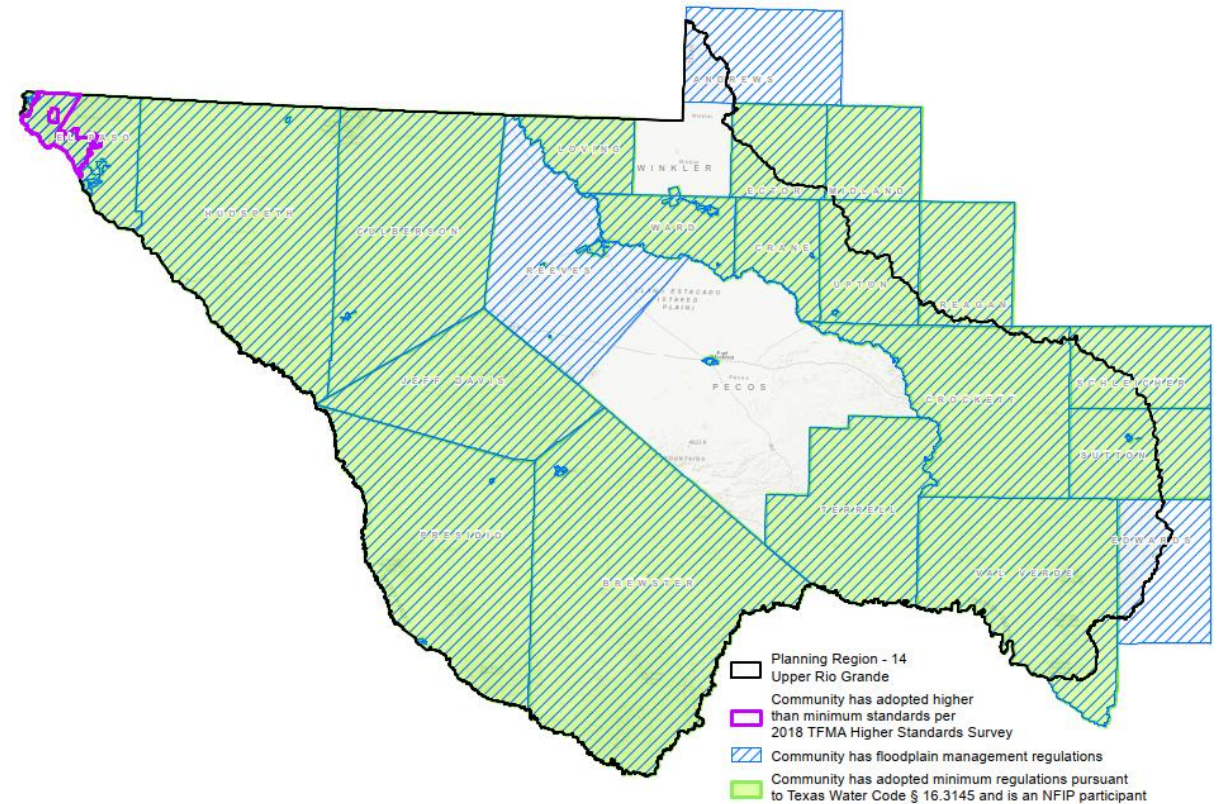
Chapter 2 – Flood Risk Analyses

- 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



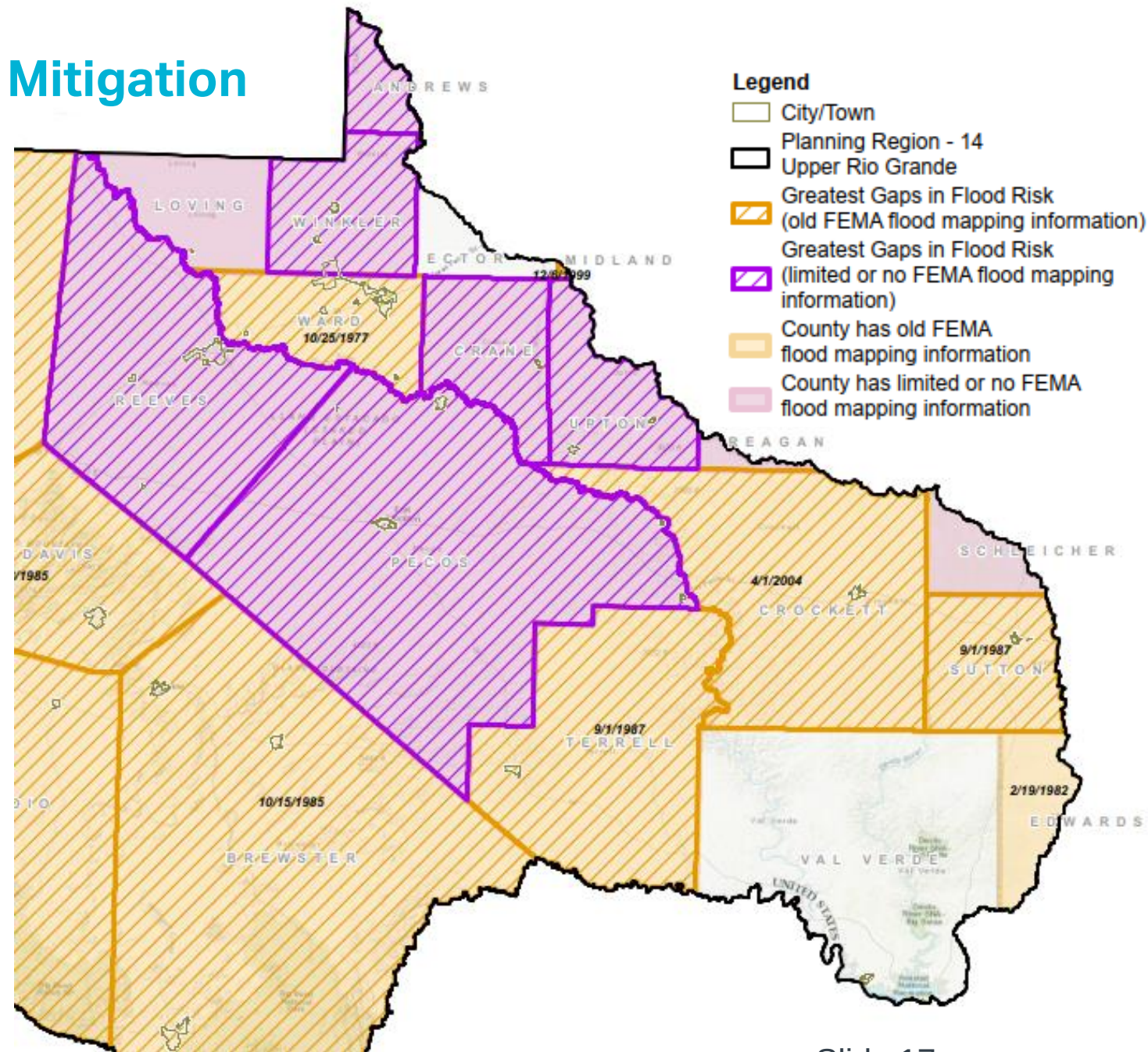
Chapter 3 – Floodplain Management Practices and Goals

- 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



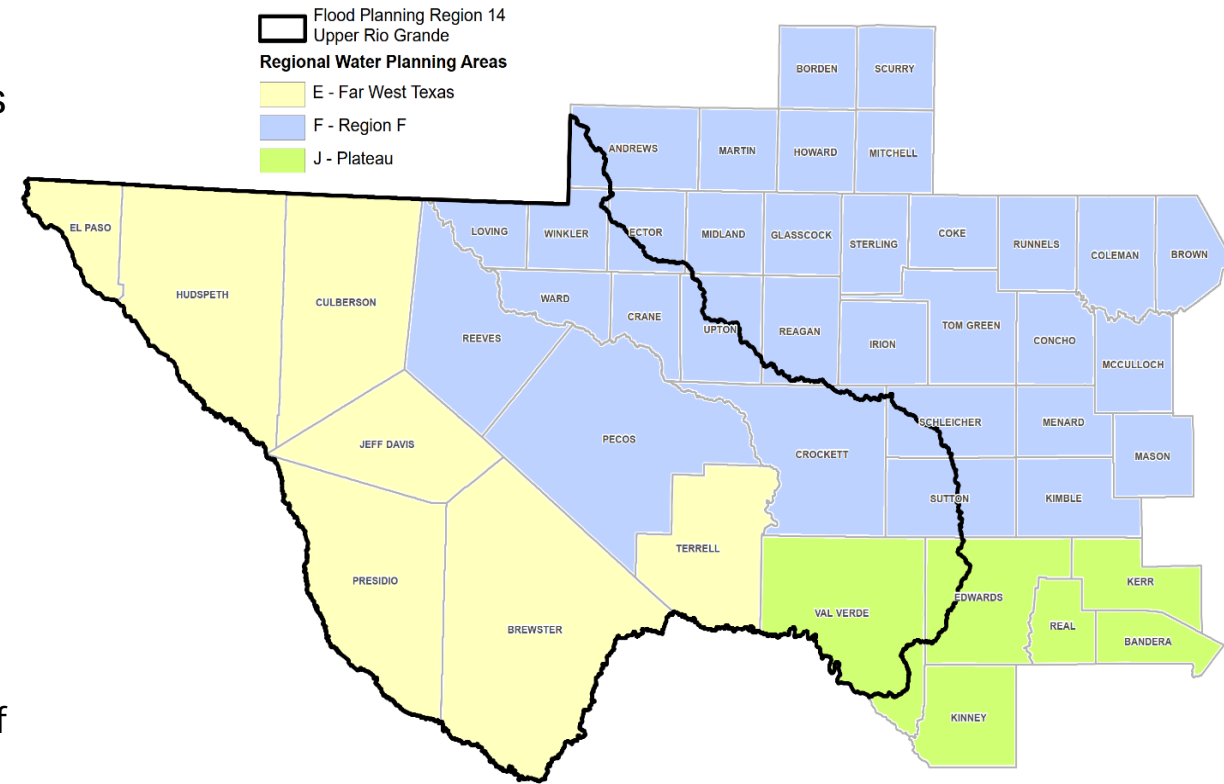
Chapter 6 – Impacts and Contribution of Regional Flood Plan

– 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

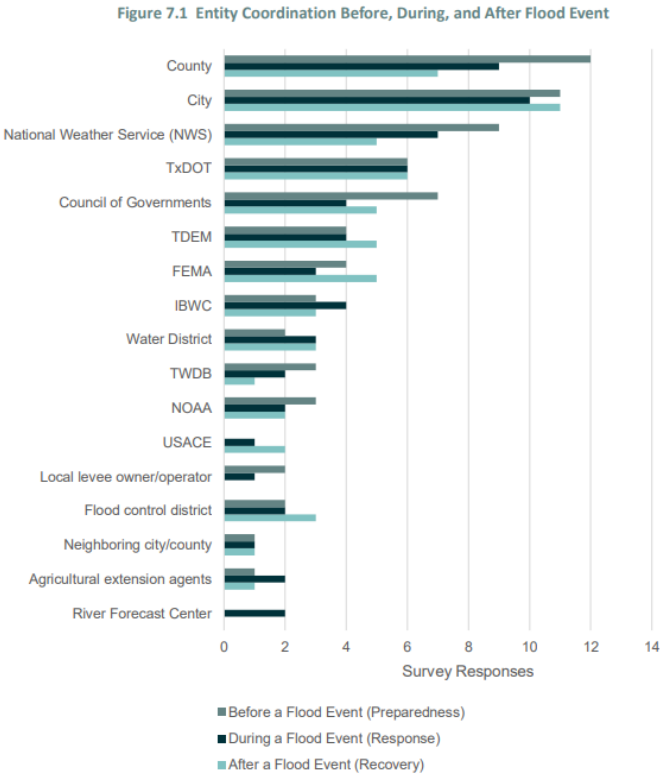


Chapter 7 – Flood Response Information and Activities

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

Table 7.1 Flood Emergency Management Phases

Phase	General Definition	Example Activities (not an exhaustive list)
Flood mitigation	"The implementation of actions, including both structural and non-structural solutions, to reduce flood risk to protect against the loss of life and property." (Title 31 Texas Administrative Code §361.10(k))	See <i>Technical Guidelines for Regional Flood Planning</i> Section 3.2(2-3) examples of structural and non-structural Flood Mitigation Projects.
Flood preparedness	Actions, aside from mitigation, that are taken before flood events to prepare for flood response activities	Developing emergency management and evacuation plans, preparing staging areas, and building flood early warning systems
Flood response	Actions taken during and in the immediate aftermath of a flood event	Conducting evacuations, providing shelters, closing flooded roads, and operating flood warning systems
Flood recovery	Actions taken after a flood event involving repairs or other actions necessary to return to pre-event conditions	Repairs to damaged infrastructure, storm event debris removal



Chapter 8 – Administrative, Regulatory, and Legislative Recommendations

– Legislative Recommendations

- El Paso County Area Stakeholders
 - 3 recommendations
- Flood Planning Area Outside of El Paso County
 - 2 recommendations

– Regulatory/Administrative Recommendations

- El Paso County Area Stakeholders
 - 13 recommendations
- Flood Planning Area Outside of El Paso County
 - 8 recommendations

Table ES.5 Legislative Recommendations (El Paso County Area Stakeholders)

Need to address	Recommendation
Burden on sponsors for levee certification is excessive	Communicate with the federal government about lessening the burden for levee certification
Counties perceive lack of ability to regulate drainage outside of FEMA floodplains	Counties to consider adoption of drainage requirements beyond areas that are in flood zone (e.g., within County Road ROWs outside floodplains)
Revolving state funds are not self-sustaining	Create specific revolving state funds to provide matching to federal dollars for FMPs

Table ES.7 Legislative Recommendations (Flood Planning Area Outside of El Paso County)

Need to address	Recommendation
New federal requirements addressing historic preservation	Develop a set of regional comments on new requirements to be provided to the federal agency
Counties perceive lack of ability to regulate drainage outside of FEMA floodplains	Counties to consider adoption of drainage requirements beyond areas that are in flood zone (e.g., within County Road ROWs outside floodplains)

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

Flood Mitigation Action Type	Number of Recommended Actions	Anticipated Total Cost of Implementation
FME	22	\$7,510,000
FMP	14	\$149,205,280
FMS	22	\$3,586,100
Total	58	\$160,301,380

– 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

Source	Federal Agency	State Agency	Program Name	Grant (G)	Loan (L)	Post-Disaster (D)
Federal	EPA	TCEQ/ TSSWCB	Nonpoint Source Grant Program 319(h) (NPS)	G	-	-
		TWDB	Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF)	G ¹	L	-
	FEMA		Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP)	G	-	-
		TBD	Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Program (STORM)	-	L	-
		TCEQ	Rehabilitation of High Hazard Potential Dam Program (HHPD)	G	-	-
		TDEM	Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) ²	G	-	-
		TDEM	Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)	G	-	D
		TDEM	Public Assistance (PA)	G	-	D
		TWDB	Flood Mitigation Assistance Program (FMA)	G	-	-
	HUD	GLO	Community Development Block Grant-Disaster Recovery (CDBG-DR)	G	-	D
		GLO/ TDEM	Community Development Block Grant-Local Hazard Mitigation Plan Program (LHMPP)	G	-	-
		GLO	Community Development Block Grant-Mitigation (CDBG-MIT)	G	-	D
		TDA	Texas Community Development Block Grant (Tx-CDBG) Program for Rural Texas	G	-	-
	NRCS		Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP)	G	-	D
			Watershed and Flood Prevention Operations Program (WFPO)	G	L	-
			Watershed Rehabilitation Program (REHAB)	G	-	-
	USACE		Continuing Authorities Program (CAP) ³	-	-	-
			Partnerships with USACE, funded through WRDA or other legislative vehicles ³	-	-	-
State	N/A	TWDB	Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF)	G	L	-
		TWDB	Texas Water Development Fund (DFund)	G	L	-
		TWDB	Rural Water Assistance Fund (RWAF)	-	L	-
		TSSWCB	Structural Dam Repair Grant Program	G	-	-
		TSSWCB	Flood Control Operation and Maintenance (O&M) Grant Program	G	-	-
		TSSWCB	Flood Control Dam Infrastructure Projects - Supplemental Funding	G	-	-
Local	Not Applicable		General Fund	Not Applicable		
			Stormwater or Drainage Utility Fee			
			Tax Applications			
			Bonds			
			Special-Purpose Districts			

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

