

Chapter 10: Public Outreach and Involvement

10.1 Overview

The Guadalupe Regional Flood Planning Group (RFPG) made a commitment to develop the 2023 Guadalupe Regional Flood Plan (RFP) through a transparent process in which public input and participation is welcomed and encouraged. As part of this process, the Texas Water Code (TWC) Section 16.062 and Title 31 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) Chapter 361, require public notice and input opportunities. The technical consultant team prepared a Public Involvement Plan (PIP) for the RFPG to supplement those legally required efforts with opportunities to encourage and obtain meaningful public and stakeholder input throughout the planning process. As the project sponsor, the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) was responsible for ensuring all public notice and participation activities were carried out as required by the TWC and 31 TAC.

The flood planning process is guided by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), led by the voting members of the Guadalupe RFPG and the Executive Committee, governed by by-laws, administered by GBRA, and supported by a team of technical consultants. The Guadalupe RFPG is composed of 15 voting members, with one member representing each of the following interests: *general public, agriculture, small business, industries, environmental, electric generating utility, water utility, flood districts, and water districts*; and two members representing each of the following interests: *municipalities, counties, and river authorities*. The members represent the interests of entities and organizations throughout the Guadalupe River Basin. A list of the voting members is found in **Table 10-1**. The Guadalupe RFPG also consists of non-voting members comprised of representatives from state agencies, river authorities, counties, and environmental organizations. Non-voting members are listed in **Table 10-2**.

Table 10-1: Guadalupe RFPG Voting Membership

Interest Group	Member Name	Organization/Entity
Agricultural	Doug Miller	Highlife Ranch/Miller & Miller Insurance
Counties	John Johnston, PE, CFM	Victoria County
Counties	Lon Shell	Hays County Commissioner, Pct 3
Electric Generating Utilities	Bobby Christmas	Guadalupe Valley Electric Cooperative
Environmental	Annalisa Peace	Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance
Flood Districts	Doug Sethness	DeWitt County Drainage District No. 1, President

Interest Group	Member Name	Organization/Entity
Industries	Kevin Stone	Martin Marietta
Municipalities	Joe Pantalion, PE	City of San Marcos
Municipalities	Ken Gill, PE	City of Victoria
Public	Kimberly Meitzen, PhD	Texas State University, Department of Geography
River Authorities	Brian Perkins, PE	Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority
River Authorities	Ray Buck	Upper Guadalupe River Authority
Small Business	Gian Villarreal, PE, CFM	WEAT/Seagull PME
Water Districts	Ronald (Ron) Fieseler	Blanco Pedernales Groundwater Conservation District
Water Utilities	Steven Fonville	Martindale Water Supply Corporation

Table 10-2: Guadalupe RFPG Non-Voting Membership

Name	Organization Entity
Sue Reilly	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
Jim Guin	Texas Division of Emergency Management
Jami McCool	Texas Department of Agriculture
Allen Nash	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board
Kris Robles	General Land Office
Ryke Moore	Texas Water Development Board
Joel Klumpp	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Don Durden	Kendall County Commissioner, Pct 4
Patrick Brzozowski	Lavaca-Navidad River Authority (Liaison from neighboring Region 10)
Doris Cooksey	City Public Service (Liaison from neighboring Region 12)

10.2 Guadalupe RFPG Public Outreach and Involvement Summary

The Guadalupe RFPG began meeting in fall 2020 with its initial kick-off meeting taking place on November 4, 2020. Initial public involvement efforts included the dissemination of information and event details via the planning group website and electronic mail announcements. The Guadalupe RFPG continued to meet monthly, and in the spring of 2021, they selected a technical consultant team to support the development of the Guadalupe RFP. During early discussions between the Guadalupe RFPG and the technical consultant team, the Guadalupe RFPG identified public outreach and participation as critical elements for the success of the regional flood planning process.

The *Regional Flood Planning Public Notification Quick Reference* is a resource that was prepared by TWDB and identifies the TWC and 31 TAC requirements for public notice and public comment. This tool was regularly utilized by the Guadalupe RFPG and GBRA to satisfy all legal notice requirements. In addition, the Guadalupe RFPG encouraged public input and comment in a manner that exceeded the requirements in the TWC and 31 TAC. Highlights of the public involvement and outreach strategies employed are listed below and described further within this chapter.

- Development of a Public Involvement Plan (PIP), see Appendix 10-1.
- Development of an extensive public and stakeholder contact list.
- Development and implementation of an interactive mapping tool to place on the Guadalupe RFPG website to gather information about flood-prone areas and existing flood management efforts using forms and surveys.
- Identification and evaluation of opportunities to enhance available information on the Guadalupe RFPG website.
- Use of social media accounts to post messages about upcoming Guadalupe RFPG meetings and activities.
- Development and implementation of a Virtual Public Meeting (VPM) tool to supplement the second in-person Guadalupe RFPG pre-planning meeting.
- Routine review and reporting of all public comments received through either the Guadalupe RFPG website or the Guadalupe RFPG email account.

Each of these strategies are discussed in detail below in **Section 10.3**.

10.3 Guadalupe RFPG Public Outreach and Involvement Tools and Strategies

The public and stakeholder involvement efforts emphasized two-way communication between the public and stakeholders and the Guadalupe RFPG. The Guadalupe RFPG maintained proactive communication and information dissemination during the planning process so that the public and stakeholders were informed and provided a process for how they could provide input, share data, or have their comments, questions, or concerns addressed.

The approved PIP provided an outline of public and stakeholder outreach and involvement activities to occur throughout the planning process and was implemented through the strategies and activities described as follows. These strategies provided a broad range of opportunities to reinforce public and stakeholder engagement and participation.

10.3.1 *Public and Stakeholder Contact List*

So as not to duplicate efforts with the Texas General Land Office (GLO) regional flood study that included the Guadalupe River Basin, the technical consultant team developed a public and stakeholder contact list by starting with the list compiled by the GLO. Consistent contacts (for example, county judges and mayors) with those included in the GLO study area counties were added to the list for those counties outside of the GLO study area, such as Bandera, Blanco, Gillespie, Hays, Kendall, Kerr, Real, and Wilson Counties. The technical consultant team performed an extensive review of the flood planning basin to identify entities with jurisdictions that were primarily located in the Guadalupe Flood Planning Region (FPR). This review allowed the technical consultant team to better facilitate conversations and outreach without duplicating efforts of neighboring RFPGs.

To date, **the list includes approximately 480 contacts** and reflects the following public and stakeholder contact categories:

- Legislators
- County Judges and County Commissioners
- Mayors, City Councilmembers, and City Administrators/Managers
- County Floodplain Administrators
- Emergency Management staff
- County Engineers
- County Public Works Directors
- City Public Works Directors
- Fire Chiefs
- River Authorities
- Groundwater Conservation Districts
- Regional Water Planning Group members
- Environmental organizations
- General public

This list continues to be updated as the plan development proceeds and more of the public and stakeholders become aware of the Guadalupe RFPG’s efforts and request to be added to the list. This extensive list is regularly updated and utilized to carry out the public outreach activities described below for RFPG meetings.

10.3.2 *Website*

As the Guadalupe RFPG sponsor, GBRA developed and continues to maintain a website (www.guadaluperfpg.org) for the Guadalupe RFPG (see images provided in **Figure 10-1**). This

website is a hub for resources, notices, and information regarding the activities and planning process of the Guadalupe RFPG. The website contains information and announcements that help to inform the public and stakeholders. These include announcements of upcoming Guadalupe RFPG meetings, agendas, and materials, notices of membership vacancies, draft technical memoranda, and draft iterations of regional flood plan. On the website, there is also a portal to sign up for notices and to submit public comments.

10.3.3 eBlasts

The technical consultant team developed electronic mail notices, referred to as ‘eBlasts’ to disseminate important information to stakeholders regarding the flood planning process. eBlast notices were posted in advance of pre-planning meetings, regular public meetings, and public hearings on the draft plan. Additionally, eBlasts were used to inform stakeholders on how best to provide input, comments, and data throughout the process.

10.3.4 Social Media

The technical consultant team worked in coordination with GBRA staff to create social media posts for various social media platforms (see images provided in **Figure 10-2**). These social media accounts were established and administered by GBRA. Social media messaging was posted in advance of the second pre-planning meeting, regular public meetings, and public hearings on the draft plan.

10.3.5 Public Comment Tracking, Response, and Reporting

The technical consultant team developed a system for receiving and reviewing all public and stakeholder comments received through either the Guadalupe RFPG website or through the Guadalupe RFPG email account. As stakeholders and the public submitted information through these two avenues, the team would respond to each comment and provide monthly reports to the Guadalupe RFPG of comments and responses.

10.3.6 Pre-Planning Meeting: Virtual Public Meeting

One of the strategies that the technical consultant team utilized was the use of a Virtual Public Meeting (VPM) room to supplement the second in-person Guadalupe RFPG pre-planning public meeting held on August 4, 2021 (see images provided in **Figure 10-3**). This VPM format enabled participation across the entire flood planning basin by allowing stakeholders and the public to view information, maps, and figures in a “virtual meeting room” environment. The virtual meeting room contained information stations located throughout the room. At the start of the meeting, meeting attendees (such as elected officials, agency representatives, members of the public, etc.) entered the meeting on-line at the “sign-in” station, where they were asked to sign in to record their attendance. They were welcomed by Doug Miller, Guadalupe RFPG Chair, and

greeted by narrators who guided them through the virtual meeting room and provided information regarding the meeting content (such as presentations, display boards, videos) presented at each station. The meeting attendees moved through the meeting content at their own pace, including re-visiting stations as needed. The final station provided an opportunity for meeting attendees to post questions or comments. The virtual public meeting went live on August 4, 2021 and remained publicly accessible for the public for two weeks via the main Guadalupe RFPG website and via a direct URL link (https://www.blantonassociates.com/GBRA_Pre-Planning_vpm/).

10.3.7 *Interactive Comment Mapping Tool*

The technical consultant team also created an interactive comment mapping tool with a functionality that allowed users to geolocate points on a map where there are known flood impacts, flood concerns or flood mitigation strategies being implemented (<https://blanton.maps.arcgis.com/apps/CrowdsourcingReporter/index.html?appid=9109c845c61a4719bd83370be46cdfc8>). The tool allowed users to provide descriptive comments and to upload images or key data sets if they had information to share (see images provided in **Figure 10-4**). The map was accompanied by a form for the public to complete to add their comments and information regarding flood prone areas and flood strategies or projects in their communities. The interactive tool was accessible via the Guadalupe RFPG website and the VPM and remained available for the duration of the planning process. Information uploaded through the interactive comment mapping tool after September 2021 was not considered for the 2023 Guadalupe RFP because of TWDB deadlines for completion of certain milestones. However, any information received after this date will be stored and considered for use in the next regional flood planning cycle.

10.3.8 *Stakeholder Survey*

To facilitate data collection and to further characterize flooding needs and risks in the flood region, the Guadalupe RFPG developed a stakeholder survey (see images provided in **Figure 10-5**). The survey was designed to gather background information, current flood risk, flood related resources, and existing flood infrastructure within a community. A copy of the stakeholder survey can be found in **Appendix 10-B**. The categories of questions and topics addressed in the survey included: floodplain management practices and regulations, data inventory of natural features and major flood infrastructure, strategies and projects, and current funding mechanisms. Some questions included opportunities for stakeholders to upload relevant data including information about current floodplain management practices and ordinances, studies backing ongoing flood mitigation efforts, or documentation regarding flooding and flood infrastructure conditions in their communities.

The survey was accessible through the website, the VPM room, and distributed to the identified stakeholders and public on August 4, 2021, via email announcements. The initial notification was provided through an email blast, and several email reminders were sent in the following weeks. The survey remained open with a due date of September 30, 2021, for information to be considered in this planning round. Follow-up communication was utilized to boost response rates and ensure all stakeholders had the opportunity to provide their feedback. In addition, the technical consultant team made several direct phone calls to key stakeholders to ensure that stakeholders received the email containing the survey, understood the importance and purpose of the survey, and was provided with any help needed to navigate or respond to the survey. Although there was a cutoff date for submitting responses and information, the survey remained accessible to stakeholders throughout the planning process. Information was continually collected, but only submittals provided by the due date were considered for incorporation into this first flood plan.

10.3.9 *Sponsor Questionnaires*

To further validate information that was previously collected from agency representatives and key stakeholders, the technical consultant team conducted two rounds of region-wide outreach to entities that were directly planning to sponsor flood management evaluations (FMEs), flood management projects (FMPs) or flood management strategies (FMSs). These two rounds of sponsor outreach were performed prior to the publication of the draft flood plan. In February-March 2022, sponsors were contacted directly, to provide them with a table showing which flood planning actions had been identified for them, determine if any actions were missing, and requested a response if there were any assumptions that were inaccurate. A second round of questionnaires was sent to sponsors in June 2022, primarily to engage the sponsors to review the cost assumptions of the revised list of actions based on feedback received during the first round.

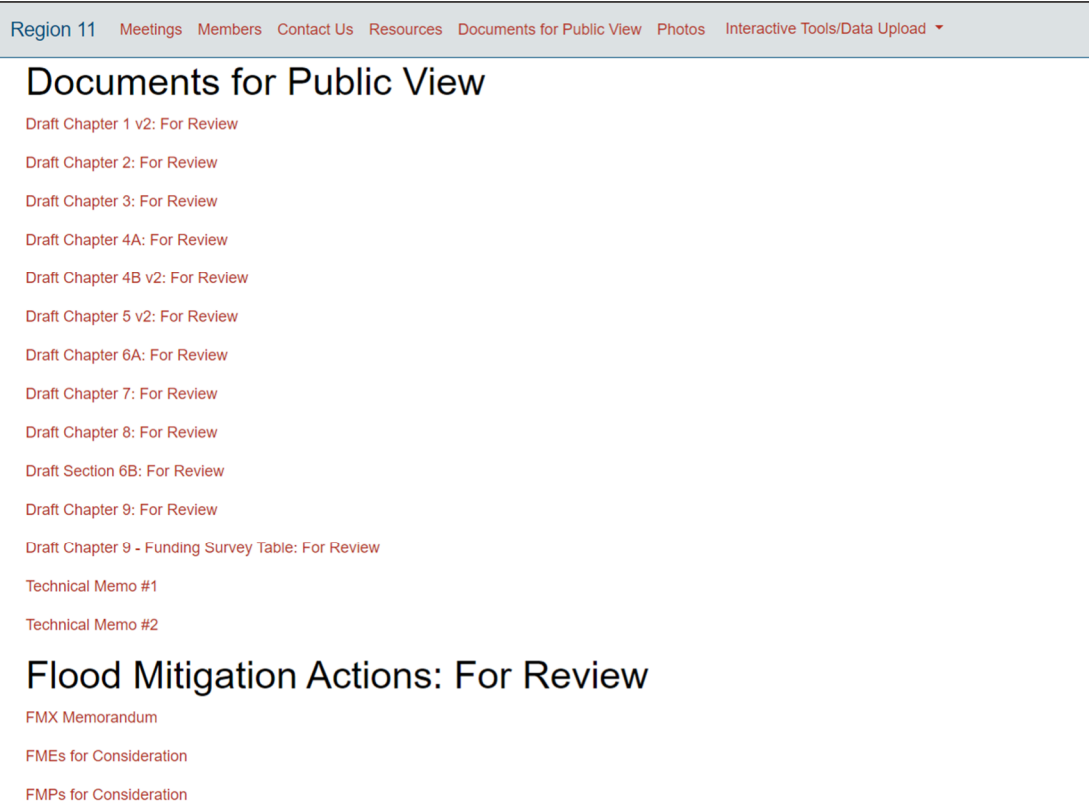



Figure 10-1: Guadalupe RFPG Website Images



Notice of Public Meeting

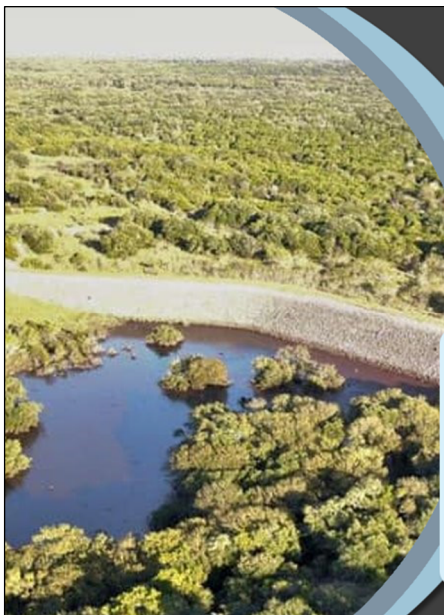
Region 11 - Guadalupe RFG
Wednesday, October 6, 2021, at 2:00 PM
Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority River Annex
905 Nolan Street, Seguin, TX 7815

The Region 11 Guadalupe Regional Flood Planning Group will be holding this public meeting both virtually and in-person. There will be a focused discussion on management practices, goals, and targets.

The meeting agenda, materials, and details on how to attend or log into the meeting can be found at <http://guadaluperfpg.org/Meetings.aspx>

Public comments on this topic are encouraged. If you would like to provide comments and input into this part of the planning process, or if you want to request more information on the flood planning process, please send a note to:
comments@guadalupeRFG.org

Photo Courtesy of Clifton Ladd 2020



Notice of Public Meeting

Region 11 - Guadalupe Flood Planning Group Meeting

When: Wednesday, June 29, 2022, at 1:00 PM

Where: Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority River Annex
905 Nolan Street
Seguin, TX 78155

The Region 11 Guadalupe Regional Flood Planning Group will be holding this public meeting in-person. The meeting agenda, materials, and other details can be found at <http://guadaluperfpg.org/Meetings.aspx>.

If you wish to provide written comments prior to or after the meeting, please email your comments to (comments@guadaluperfpg.org) and include "Region 11 Flood Planning Group Meeting" in the subject line of the email.

We appreciate your participation and look forward to hearing your input.

Figure 10-2: Guadalupe RFG Social Media Images

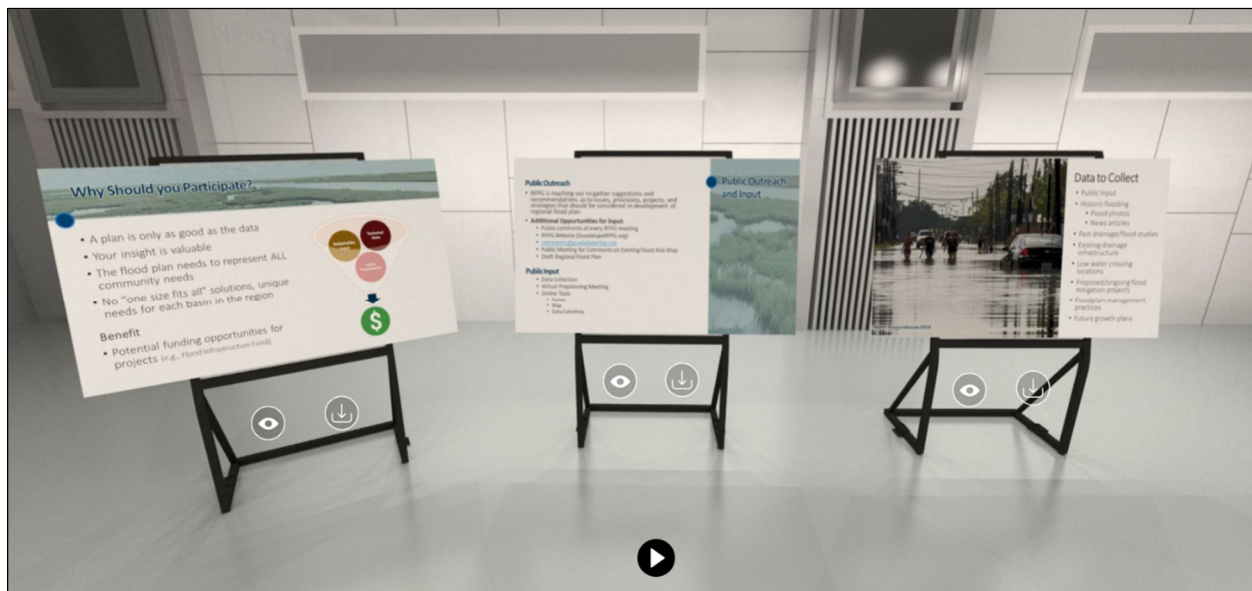
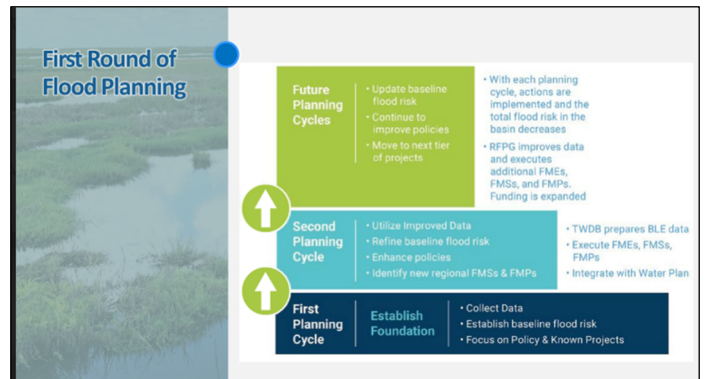
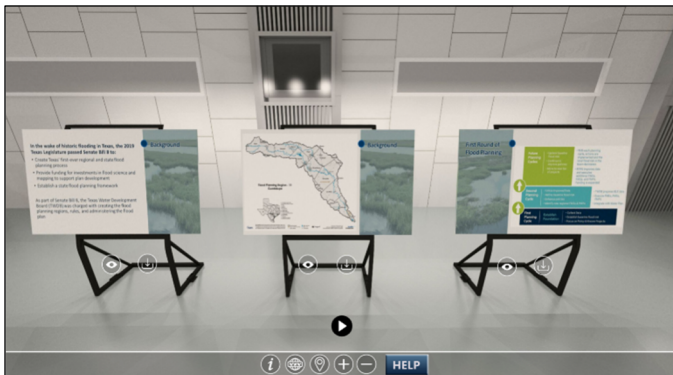
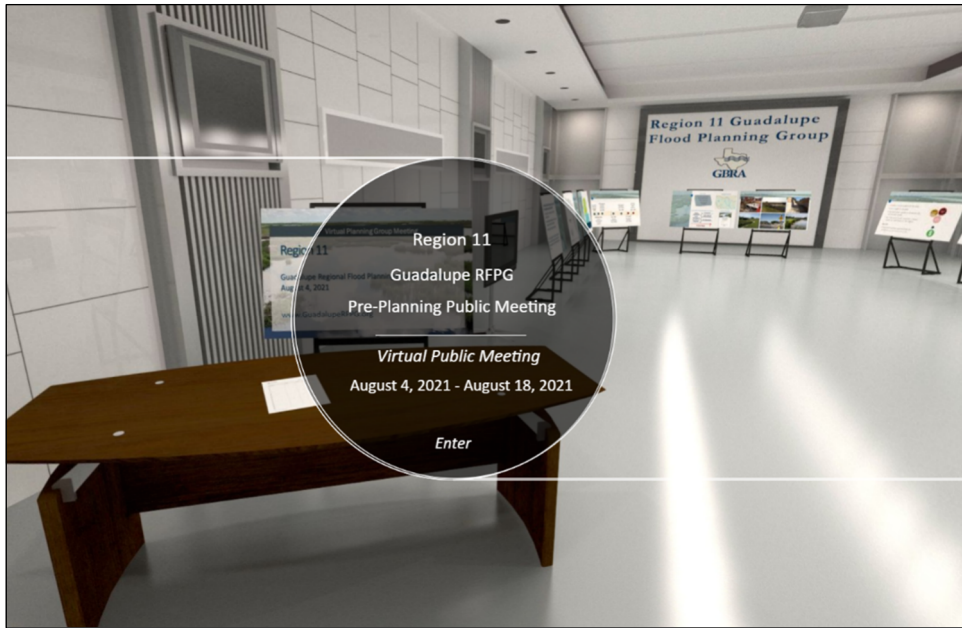


Figure 10-3: Guadalupe RFG Second Pre-Planning Public Meeting - Virtual Public Meeting Room Images

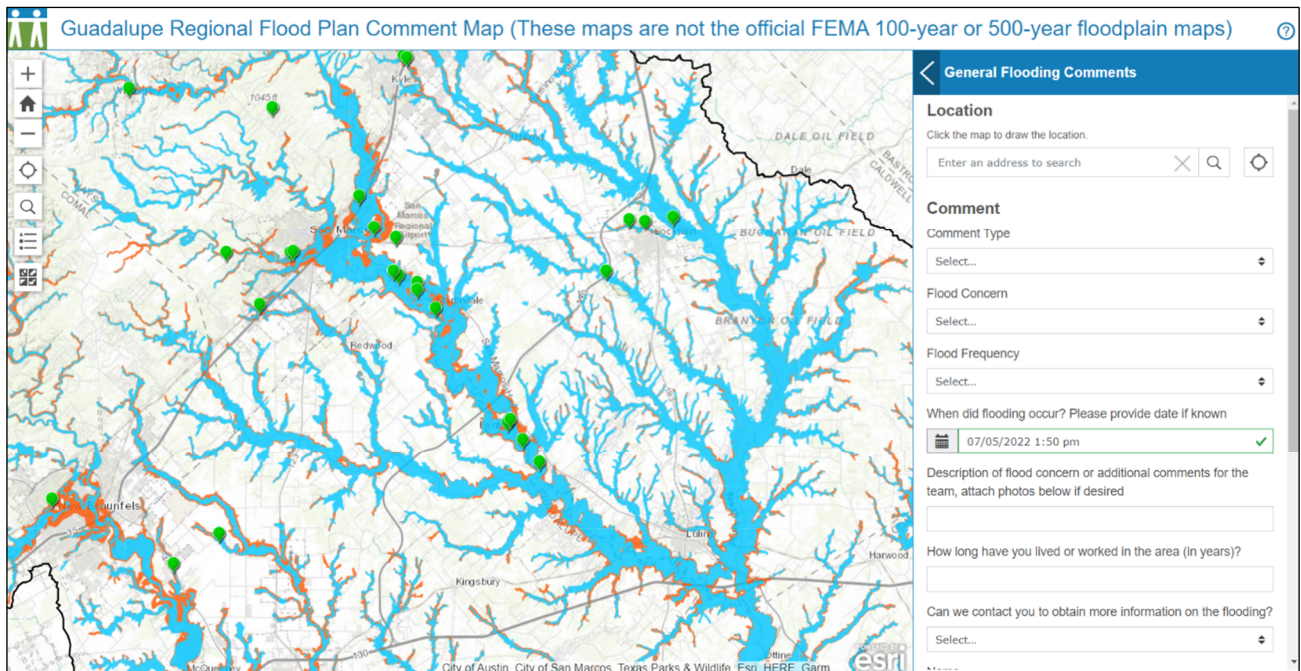
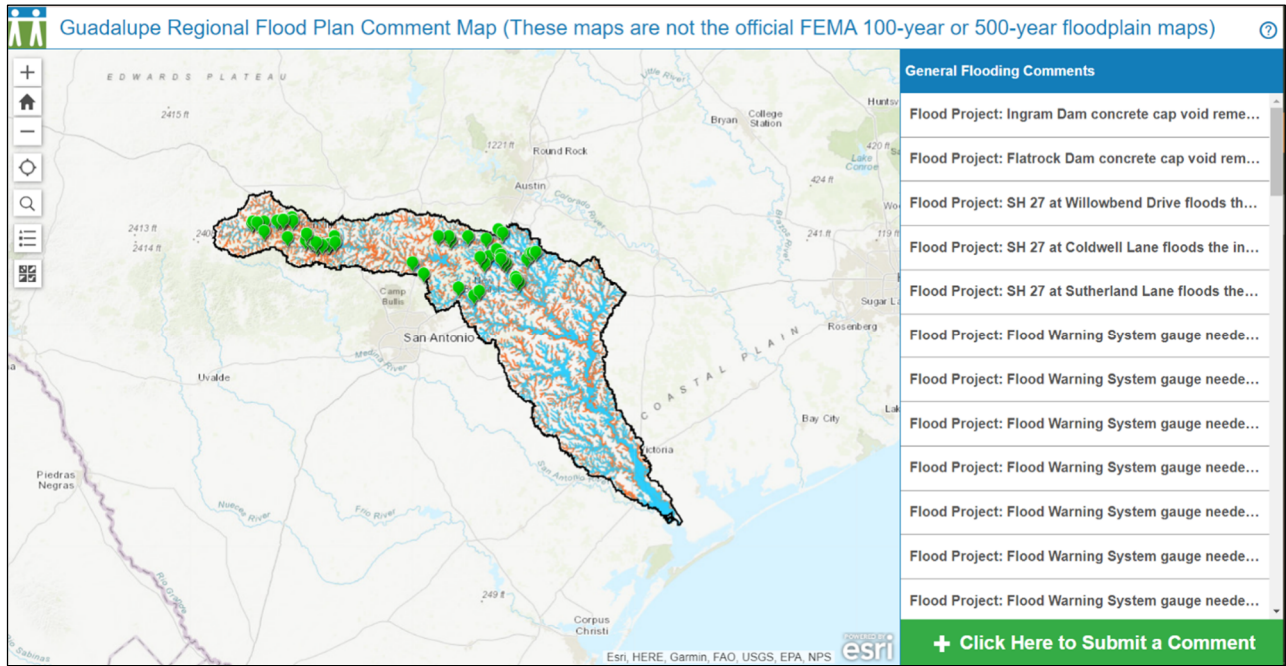


Figure 10-4: Guadalupe RFPG Interactive Comment Mapping Tool Images

Guadalupe Regional Flood Plan Survey

Introduction

Tell us about yourself and your community.

The deadline to provide input for this planning cycle is Thursday, September 30, 2021. Comments provided after September 30, 2021 will be considered in the next planning cycle.

Contact Information (Optional)

Email Address

Phone Number

1. Which of the following best describes you?

- I am the floodplain manager for a community participating in the National Flood Insurance Program.
- I am a public-sector employee with flood-related responsibilities.
- I am an elected or appointed official with flood-related responsibilities.
- I am a person interested in the regional flood planning process.
- Other (describe)

Guadalupe Regional Flood Plan Data Upload

The deadline to provide input for this planning cycle is Thursday, September 30, 2021. Comments provided after September 30, 2021 will be considered in the next planning cycle.

Help Us Gather Data

We are collecting data from public servants, entities, and citizens across the region. This data will help us develop a comprehensive understanding of flood risk and identify solutions that address flooding issues.

We are looking for the following types of data:

- GIS data of natural and constructed drainage infrastructure
- Records of historical flooding
- Regulatory floodplains
- Land Use and development plans
- Flooding related plans and studies
- Ordinances and policies related to flooding

Thanks for contributing to this planning effort.

Please upload your GIS files and flood data using the form below.

Email Address

Figure 10-5: Guadalupe RFPG Stakeholder Survey and Data Upload Tools

10.4 Guadalupe RFPG Meetings

Public involvement and outreach were important considerations in all phases of development for the first RFP. GBRA and the technical consultant team used various strategies and activities to enhance the level of public participation and engagement in meetings and throughout the planning process. **Table 10-3** provides a summary of these strategies implemented by type of Guadalupe RFPG meeting. All Guadalupe RFPG meetings were preceded by required notice and open to the public. Opportunities for public comment were available at the beginning and end of every Guadalupe RFPG meeting, and summaries of comments received were presented at each meeting and included in the meeting materials for each meeting (see **Appendix 10-C.21**.) Communication of information disseminated by GBRA and the technical consultant was facilitated and supported by the GBRA-maintained website and by TWDB information and resources. Throughout the planning process, GBRA and the technical consultant team provided responses to inquiries from the public.

Table 10-3: Guadalupe RFPG Public Involvement Tools and Strategies Used to Support Meetings

Meeting Types	Stakeholder		Social				
	Contact List	Website	Media	Eblast	VPM ¹	ICM ²	Other ³
Pre-Planning Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Regular Monthly Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Draft Plan Public Hearing and Public Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Final Plan Public Meetings	✓	✓	✓	✓			

¹ VPM – Virtual Public Meeting

² ICM – Interactive Comment Mapping Tool

³ Other - Public Survey, Sponsor Questionnaires

10.4.1 Pre-Planning Public Meetings

As required by the TAC, the Guadalupe RFPG held two pre-planning public meetings to solicit public input regarding suggestions and recommendations relating to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies that should be considered during the flood planning cycle and/or input on the development of the regional flood plan. The first pre-planning public meeting was held on March 3, 2021, as an item on their regular monthly RFPG meeting agenda. -This meeting was

held at the GBRA River Annex in Seguin, Texas. The second pre-planning public meeting was held on August 4, 2021, in Wimberly, Texas, which is located the central portion of the flood basin. The pre-planning public input meeting was held as an item on their regular monthly RFPG meeting agenda.

There were 61 attendees, (16 Guadalupe RFPG members, seven elected officials, 32 members of the public, one GBRA staff member and eight members of the technical consultant team assisting the Guadalupe RFPG with developing the regional flood plan), at the August 4, 2021, pre-planning meeting. Eleven



Photo 10-1: August 4, 2021 Pre-Planning Meeting

individuals spoke and provided verbal comments, with one speaker submitting copies of emails and letters concerning flood planning and potential solutions. Twenty-six attendees noted that they received the meeting announcement via email.

The August 4th in-person pre-planning meeting was supplemented by a VPM component to expand public participation opportunities in the flood planning process. The VPM room was open for public use from August 6 – 18, 2021. The average time a user spent in the VPM room was approximately seven minutes. There were 19 people who signed in via the VPM room with six users providing comments via the VPM comment form. Within the VPM room the users also had access to an interactive comment map tool for which nine comments were submitted by three different users. Additionally, users were also able to access a stakeholder survey form from within the VPM room. A summary report of the stakeholder and public comments received in-person at the August 4th meeting, including the emails and letters submitted, are found in **Appendix 10-A**. Additionally, **Appendix 10-C.12** also provides a listing of public comments received in-person, by VPM, and via the interactive comment map. Collectively, in-person and virtually, there were 126 attendees for the pre-planning meeting with 16 individuals providing comments either in-person or via an online tool.

10.4.2 Regular Meetings

The Guadalupe RFPG held regular monthly meetings during the timeframe of 2020 – 2023. These meetings included presentation of materials, discussions, deliberations, voting on specific measures, and public comment. **Table 10-4** provides a summary of all the Guadalupe RFPG public meetings, which includes regular meetings and executive committee meetings. A

compilation of the public comment tracking matrices that were developed to track comments submitted online can be found in **Appendix 10-C.3. ~~Members of the~~In accordance with Chapter 31 TAC and the Texas Open Meetings Act, the public was notified of Guadalupe RFGP public meetings attended these meetings, which were through postings posted on the Texas Secretary of State’s website as well as ~~nd~~ the Guadalupe RFGP website in accordance with Chapter 31 TAC and the Texas Open Meetings Act. In accordance with Chapter 31 TAC and the Texas Public Information Act, meeting minutes and other Guadalupe RFGP-related documents were posted on the Guadalupe RFGP website for viewing and interested stakeholders that requested to be included in email notices received communications regarding upcoming meetings. Every meeting included a scheduled time for public comment and questions. All the meetings were held in-person, virtually, or by a hybrid format within the flood basin. During the 2020 – 2021 timeframe, the majority of the regular Guadalupe RFGP meetings were held virtually due to precautions being taken related to the COVID-19 pandemic. When the levels of risk decreased for**



Photo 10-2: May 10, 2022. Regular Guadalupe RFGP Meeting, online and in-person format. Seguin, Texas.

COVID-19, the Guadalupe RFGP continued to use virtual and hybrid meeting formats and eventually transitioned to only in-person meetings.



Photo 10-3: June 27, 2022. Regular Guadalupe RFGP Meeting, in-person only format. Seguin, Texas.

Table 10-4: Overview of Monthly Guadalupe RFPG Meetings

Meeting Date	Key Discussion Items	Action Items
<u>January 4, 2023</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Approve Final Plan for submittal</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>N/A</u>
<u>December 7, 2022</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Discussion on Comment Response Log, Revised Chapter 6 and 7</u> • <u>Discussion and approval of FMXs, and recommendations.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>N/A</u>
<u>November 2, 2022</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Discussion and potential action regarding administrative expenses to be submitted to the Texas Water Development Board for reimbursement.</u> • <u>Discussion and potential action regarding the solicitation to fill the vacant voting position in the River Authorities interest category.</u> • <u>Discussion regarding Region 11 RFPG Technical Consultants work and schedule.</u> • <u>Discussion and possible action approving the list of Flood Mitigation Evaluations (FMEs) for Task 12.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Approval of administrative expenses.</u> • <u>No action regarding the solicitation to fill the vacant voting position in the River Authorities.</u> • <u>Approval of list of FMEs for Task 12.</u>
<u>September 21, 2022</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Presentation</u> • <u>Public Input</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Not a regular public meeting, so no actions were taken.</u>
<u>September 7, 2022</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Discussion regarding Region 11 RFPG Technical Consultants work and schedule.</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Discussion and possible action approving the list of Flood Mitigation Evaluations (FMEs) for Task 12.</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>No action was taken on this item.</u>
<u>July 27, 2022</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Review and approval of Draft Flood Plan</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Approval of Draft Flood Plan.</u>

Meeting Date	Key Discussion Items	Action Items
<u>June 29, 2022</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Update on Guadalupe RFPG technical consultant work and schedule</u> • <u>Discussion and possible action approving flood mitigation actions of Guadalupe RFP</u> • <u>Discussion and possible action approving Chapters 2-5, 6b, and 7-9</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Approval of Chapters 2-5, 6b, and 7-9.</u> • <u>Approval of flood mitigation actions.</u>
<u>June 1, 2022</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Update on Guadalupe RFPG technical consultant work and schedule</u> • <u>Discussion and possible action approving flood mitigation actions of the Guadalupe RFP</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Approval of flood mitigation actions.</u>
May 10, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Guadalupe RFPG technical consultant work and schedule • Discussion and possible action approving Chapter 1 of the Guadalupe RFP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Chapter 1.
March 30, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Executive Committee’s recommendation and consider taking action to fill the Flood Districts interest category position • Update on Guadalupe RFPG technical consultant work and schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval to fill flood districts interest category position.

Meeting Date	Key Discussion Items	Action Items
February 9, 2022	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and possible action regarding administrative expenses to be submitted to TWDB for reimbursement • Consideration of nominations for Guadalupe RFPG Officers for 2022 (Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary and two members-at-large) • Discussion of and solicitation to fill the vacant voting position in the Flood Districts interest category • Discussion and possible action regarding Guadalupe RFPG Technical Consultants work and schedule • Discussion and possible action approving the Technical Memorandum No. 2 to be submitted to TWDB by March 7, 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Election of RFPG Officers for 2022. • Approval of Technical Memorandum No. 2.
December 1, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and authorization for the voting planning member travel associated with the TWDB Contract Amendment between TWDB and GBRA • Update on Guadalupe RFPG technical consultant work and schedule • Discussion and possible action approving the Technical Memorandum to be submitted to TWDB by January 7, 2022 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Technical Memorandum No. 1.
December 1, 2021 <i>(Executive Committee Meeting)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of RFPG travel costs associated with the grant Contract Amendment 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action

Meeting Date	Key Discussion Items	Action Items
November 3, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Request for Proposals and Grant Contract Amendment between TWDB and GBRA to incorporate additional funding provided by the legislature • Update on Guadalupe RFPG technical consultant work and schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action
October 6, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration and authorization for GBRA to negotiate and execute a grant contract amendment with TWDB • Consider Executive Committee’s recommendation, discussion and consider taking action to fill the Water Utilities interest category position • Update on Guadalupe RFPG technical consultant work and schedule • Discussion and possible action determining flood mitigation and floodplain management goals • Discussion and possible action approving the process for identifying potential FMEs and potentially feasible FMSs and FMPs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval to authorize GBRA to negotiate and execute a grant contract amendment with TWDB and the associated contract amendment between GBRA and the technical consultant.
October 5, 2021 <i>(Executive Committee Meeting)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of interview process and conduct interviews with nominees for voting vacant position • Discussion, nomination, and consideration of individuals to fill the Water Utilities interest category position 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval for electing individuals to fill the Water Utilities interest categories position.

Meeting Date	Key Discussion Items	Action Items
September 8, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and possible action regarding the solicitation to fill the vacant voting position in the Water Utilities interest category • Update on Guadalupe RFGP technical consultant work and schedule • Update on Guadalupe RFGP technical consultant work and schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action
August 4, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion and possible action regarding the solicitation to fill the vacant voting position in the Water Utilities interest category • Update on Guadalupe RFGP technical consultant work and schedule 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action
June 30, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Guadalupe RFGP technical consultant work and schedule • Update from GBRA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action
June 2, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Guadalupe RFGP technical consultant work and schedule • Discussion of second Pre-Planning Public Input Meeting to solicit public input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action
May 5, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on Guadalupe RFGP technical consultant work and schedule • Discussion of second Pre-Planning Public Input Meeting to solicit public input 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action

Meeting Date	Key Discussion Items	Action Items
April 13, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion, evaluation, and possible action concerning the technical consultant procurement for Guadalupe RFPG • Update and discussion of responses to the request for qualifications • Discussion of recommendation from the Executive Committee for the selection of a technical consultant • Authorizing the GBRA to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected firm to provide technical consulting services with the development of the Guadalupe RFP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of the technical consultant procurement for RFPG. • Approval to authorize the GBRA to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected firm to provide technical consulting services with the development of a regional flood plan.
March 30, 2021 <i>(Executive Committee Meeting)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion, evaluation, and action concerning the technical consultant procurement for the Guadalupe RFPG • Discussion and presentations by technical consulting firms' statements of qualifications in response to the request for qualifications to initiate procurement process for a technical consultant • Discussion of recommendation to the full RFPG for a selection of a technical consultant to provide services for the development of a RFP for the Guadalupe RFPG 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action
March 3, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update from Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG and Region 12 San Antonio RFPG Liaisons • Update from GBRA regarding status of the Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with TWDB and the request for qualifications to initiate the procurement process for a technical consultant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No Action

Meeting Date	Key Discussion Items	Action Items
February 3, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of Executive Committee’s recommendation for nominations and approval for the vacant voting and non-voting positions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval to fill the Public Interest category position, and the vacant voting positions of River Authorities, Municipalities, Counties and Electric Generating Utilities interest groups.
January 25, 2021 <i>(Executive Committee Meeting)</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of interview process and conduct interviews with nominees for voting and non-voting vacant positions • Nomination and consideration of individuals to fill the Counties interest category position; discussion, nomination and consideration of individuals to fill the Electric Generating Utilities interest category position • Consideration of a recommendation to the full RFGP for the appointment to fill the vacant non-voting member position in the public interest group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval to fill the vacant Voting positions of River Authorities, Municipalities, Counties, Electric Generating Utilities, River Authorities, and Municipalities interest category positions. • Approval to fill the Counties interest category position, Electric Generating Utilities interest category position, the vacant non-Voting member position in the public interest group category position.
January 6, 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of nominations for RFGP members to be non-voting liaisons to Regions 10 & 12 • Consideration of proposed request for qualifications for the GBRA to initiate procurement for a technical consultant 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of RFGP members to be non-voting liaisons to Region 10 & Region 12. • Approval of the proposed request for qualifications for the GBRA to initiate procurement for a technical consultant.

Meeting Date	Key Discussion Items	Action Items
December 2, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of nominations for RFPG Vice Chair and Secretary • Consideration of nominations for two members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee • Discussion and possible action to add additional voting and non-voting positions to the RFPG • Update from GBRA regarding status of Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with TWDB • Discussion of technical consultant procurement process and Scope of Work posted with TWDB • Discussion of a GBRA hosted a public website and public comment methods 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval to elect RFPG Vice Chair and Secretary. • Approval of nominations for two members-at-large to serve on the Executive Committee. • Approval to add additional voting and non-voting positions to the RFPG.
November 4, 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion of bylaws • Consideration of nominating and electing regional flood planning group Chair or Interim Chair • Consideration of selecting a planning group sponsor to act on behalf of the regional flood planning group • Consideration of additional, region-specific public notice requirements, if any, that might be necessary to ensure adequate public notice in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval to elect regional flood planning group Chair or Interim Chair. • Approval of nominations for Chair or Interim Chair by members. • Selection of a planning group sponsor.

10.4.3 Draft Plan Meetings

Chapter 31 TAC statutory requirements state that a RFPG shall hold one or more public meetings to obtain input from the public on the ~~D~~raft Guadalupe Regional Flood Plan (RFP). The first 30-day comment period occurred on August 8, 2022 – September 6, 2022. The official public hearing on the draft Guadalupe RFP was held on September 7, 2022. Details on this meeting are described later in this section. The second 30-day comment period occurred on September 8, 2022 – October 7, 2022. To supplement the 30-day meeting notice and the 60-day public comment period required by the TWC and 31 TAC, to promote awareness of the public meeting(s), and to help encourage public and stakeholder participation and input, Although the statutory requirements only require one public hearing on the draft RFP, the Guadalupe RFPG elected to hold one public hearing and a second public meeting for the purposes of gathering input on the draft Guadalupe RFP. Towards this end, the technical consultant team and GBRA facilitator conducted ~~performed~~ the following outreach tasks listed below in **Table 10-5**.

Table 10-5: Overview of Outreach Efforts for Draft Guadalupe Regional Flood Plan

Tasks	Completed on
Post ed Draft Plan-RFP on website prior to start of comment period. 30-day comment period starts on August 8th.	August 5, 2022
Published Legally Required Public Hearing Notice. TAC requires legal notice to be posted 30 days prior to the Sep. 7th meeting.	August 5, 2022
Post ed hard copy of Draft Plan-RFP at three locations 30 days prior and 30 days following the Sep. 7th meeting.	August 5, 2022
Issue Press Release #1. GBRA will <u>issued</u> press release <u>announcing the RFPG's approval of the Draft RFP.</u> Media o <u>Outlets, such as the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, will print-published the information from the press release</u> in late August-July <u>timeframe.</u>	July 15- August 28, 2022
1st Social Media Post - 1) <u>described 1) Draft RFP</u> draft plan available for public, 2) upcoming meetings on draft plan (Sep 7 th <u>and Sep 21st</u>), and 3) upcoming start of comment period. GBRA will <u>post</u> ed online. Planning members will <u>shared</u> posts.	August 8 <u>11</u> , 2022
1st Eblast - same as social media messaging	August 8 <u>3</u> , 2022
Additional Outreach by Email: Adjacent RFPGs, COGs, Regional Water Planning Groups	August 8 <u>3</u> , 2022
Issue Media Advisory #1: -Press Release #2- <u>GBRA issued Media Advisory #1 announcing the upcoming Sep 7th public hearing.</u> GBRA will issue press release. Media outlets will print in late August timeframe.	August 15 - <u>September 5</u> 31 , 2022

Tasks	Completed on
2nd Social Media Post - 1) described <u>1) the Draft RFP plan</u> available for public, 2) <u>reminder on</u> upcoming meeting on draft plan <u>Draft RFP</u> (Sep 7th), and 3) reminder about open comment period. GBRA will <u>posted</u> online. Planning members will <u>shared</u> posts.	<u>September 7, August 24, 2022</u>
2nd Eblast - same as social media messaging	August <u>24, 31</u> 2022
Additional Outreach by Email: Adjacent RFPGs, Council of Governments, Regional Water Planning Groups	August <u>24, 31</u> 2022
Media Advisory #2: <u>GBRA issued Media Advisory # 2 announcing the upcoming Sep 21st public input meeting.</u>	<u>September 14, 2022</u>
3rd Social Media Post - 1) described <u>1) -Draft plan RFP</u> available for public, and 2) <u>upcoming end of comment period ending and 3) reminder on upcoming second public input meeting on Draft RFP (Sep 21st).</u> Planning members will <u>shared</u> posts.	September <u>14, 30</u> , 2022
3rd Eblast - same as social media messaging	September <u>30, 14</u> , 2022
Additional Outreach by Email: Adjacent RFPGs, Council of Governments, Regional Water Planning Groups	September <u>30, 14</u> , 2022

~~Although the statutory requirements only require one public hearing on the draft RFP, the Guadalupe RFPG elected to hold one public hearing and a second public meeting for the purposes of gathering input on the draft Guadalupe RFP. Summaries of these two public input meetings are described below.~~

First Public Input Meeting/Public Hearing on the Draft RFP

Wednesday, September 7, 2022, at 4:30p.m.

Location: Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) Auditorium, 125 Lehmann Dr, Kerrville, TX 78028

~~Describe details and outcome here (final plan).~~ Nineteen citizens or representatives from local governments, such as the City of Kerrville and the Upper Guadalupe River Authority, attended this first public input meeting/public hearing in Kerrville. Three media representatives, including representatives from the Kerrville Daily Times, West Kerr Current, and the Hill Country Community Journal and one elected official from the Kendall County WCID #1 also attended. After Chairman Miller reviewed the process for giving public comments and opened the floor to attendees, Ms. Betty Murphy and Mr. Emmanuel Flatten, private citizens, presented their concerns about flooding in Comfort, Texas – a small town located in the western portion of Region 11. After Chairman Miller opened the floor for any additional public comment, Mr. Flatten presented more detail on the causes of the flooding problems in Comfort, Texas.

Notices and materials prepared for the September 7th Public Hearing on the Draft Guadalupe RFP can be found in the following Appendices:

- **Appendix 10-D.1** – Legal Notice for September 7, 2022, Public Hearing on Draft Flood PlanRFP
- **Appendix 10-D.2** – Public Presentation for September 7, 2022, Public Hearing on Draft Flood PlanRFP
- **Appendix 10-D.3** – Minutes for September 7, 2022, Public Hearing on Draft Flood PlanRFP

~~Public input received at the September 7th Public Hearing on the draft Guadalupe RFP can be found in the following Appendices:~~

- ~~• **Appendix 10-E** – Public Comments at Public Hearing on Draft Flood Plan (September 7, 2021)~~
- ~~• **Appendix 10-F** – Response to Public Comments on Draft Flood Plan~~

Second Public Input Meeting

Wednesday, September 21, 2022, at 4:30p.m.

Location: The University of Houston-Victoria (UHV) Northwest Campus, 1604 E. Airline Rd., Victoria, TX 77901

~~*Describe details and outcome here (final plan).* Four citizens and a representative from the Victoria County Groundwater Conservation District (VCGCD) and one elected official from the VCGCD attended the meeting. After Chairman Miller reviewed the process for giving public comments and opened the floor to attendees, Bruce Miller, Grace Renken, and Kenneth Schustereit, private citizens, presented their concerns about flooding in lower Guadalupe River basin. After Chairman Miller opened the floor for any additional public comment, Mr. Schustereit presented his perspective on the cause of the flooding problems in the lower Guadalupe River basin.~~

~~In summary, during the 60-day comment period (August 8th through October 7th), five private citizens provided verbal comments at the public input meetings and three private citizens provided written comments. After the end of comment period, an additional four comments were provided.~~

~~Public input received at the September 7th Public Input Meeting/Public Hearing and September 21st Public Input Meeting on the Draft Guadalupe RFP can be found in the following Appendices:~~

- [Appendix 10-E - Public Comments at Public Hearing \(September 7, 2022\), second public input meeting \(September 21, 2022\), and written comments received during the public comment period \(August 8th through October 7th\) on Draft RFP](#)
- [Appendix 10-F - Response to Public Comments on Draft RFP](#)

10.4.4 Final Plan Meetings

- ~~• Describe what was done and outcomes~~
- ~~• This section may also reference the following appendices:~~
 - ~~○ Appendix 10-G State Agency Comments on Draft Flood Plan~~

~~Appendix 10-H Response to State Agency Comments on Draft Flood Plan~~After the second public input meeting, the RFPG held regular planning group meetings on November 2, and December 7, 2022, and January 4, 2023. For each meeting, the technical consultant team and the GBRA facilitator notified the public of the meeting date, time, and location through eblasts, and social media.

~~At the November 2nd meeting, the technical consultant team provided a summary of the verbal comments received at the public input meetings, the written comments received during the public comment period (August 8, through October 7, 2022) on the Draft RFP and a summary of the TWDB comments received on October 25, 2022. The TWDB comments on the Draft RFP can be found in Appendix 10-G.~~

~~At the December 7th meeting, the technical consultant team presented the comment response log that summarizes the responses to all comments on the Draft Flood Plan. The final Draft RFP was issued on December 19th and on December 30th, the Guadalupe RFPG members provided their final comments on the plan. On January 4th, the Guadalupe RFPG approved the final plan for submittal to the TWDB.~~

10.5 Interregional and Agency Coordination

The Guadalupe FPR is adjacent to the Region 10 Lower Colorado Lavaca Flood Planning Region and the Region 12 San Antonio Flood Planning Region. To the extent necessary, coordination with each of these regions was accomplished through Chair correspondence, regional flood planning group liaisons, and/or technical consultant collaboration. The liaisons from the Guadalupe RFPG were Ronald Fieseler serving as the Liaison to Region 10 and Annalisa Peace serving as the Liaison to Region 12. Subjects of coordination, correspondence, or collaboration included updates on current or planned flood management strategies, potential flood planning evaluations needed, and other relevant topics of discussion. The Guadalupe RFPG is aware of no interregional conflicts involving the findings and conclusions of the Guadalupe RFP.

During the monthly RFPG meetings, group members who held positions in other flood planning regions provided updates on the progress of those regions. These updates helped to facilitate discussions concerning timelines, different approaches being used across the regions. In addition, they provided opportunities for these group members to share insights about the

processes in different regions, allowing for the technical consultant team to consider different methodologies or further coordination with other regions.

In addition to the previously mentioned official avenues of coordination, many regions had ongoing communication across the regions to facilitate the flood planning process. This coordination helped guide many aspects of the planning efforts. With the regional flood planning effort being in its inaugural cycle, there were shared conversations how to best execute the scope of work and an exchange of guidance on technical aspects of the plan. Coordination across the flood planning regions was key to ensure that the regional flood plans could be combined into a cohesive state flood plan. Region 11's lead technical consultant Freese and Nichols, Inc. was a prime consultant in six Flood Planning Regions (including Region 11) and was a subconsultant in six other Flood Planning Regions. All of the firm's Project Managers, Deputy Project Managers and production staff held weekly meetings throughout the planning process, for the purposes of exchanging best practices and technical tools, review project milestones and deliverables, and optimize workload.

Coordination with TWDB was facilitated through technical consultant conference calls. TWDB hosted multiple calls throughout the planning process to facilitate the exchange of best practices, provide additional guidance, and allow time for questions and discussion between the technical consultants for the various regions and agency staff. TWDB also hosted periodic Chair meetings to provide updates and guidance on contractual agreements, schedules, and technical deliverables. When there was an update to share, Chair Miller or GBRA staff would provide updates to the Guadalupe RFPG at their monthly meetings.

Before the technical consultant team submitted both Technical Memorandum No. 1 and Technical Memorandum No. 2 on behalf of the Guadalupe RFPG, a call was hosted by TWDB, for the technical consultant teams, to answer commonly asked questions and facilitate discussion between regions. Although TWDB staff guided the call agendas and answered many of the questions, there was also significant coordination between the regions on approaches and datasets to be used that helped identify solutions to problems that had been encountered across the regions during this first flood planning cycle.

Two additional calls were held before the submittal of the draft regional flood plans. These calls helped identify TWDB's expectations for the upcoming submittal and identified some issues that were present in the technical memorandum submittals throughout the state. The discussion facilitated by these calls allowed for an opportunity for regions to coordinate and discuss shared problems and solutions.

10.6 Flood Planning Guidance Principles

The regional flood planning process is governed by 39 overarching guidance principles, as described in 31 TAC §362.3. **This RFP conforms with each of these guidance principles, including the requirement that the RFP will not negatively affect any neighboring areas.** Additionally, the planning group met all requirements under the Texas Open Meetings Act and Public Information Act. The provisions of each principle are addressed in the report sections outlined in **Table 10-6**.

Table 10-6: 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
2	shall be based on the best available science, data, models, and flood risk mapping;	Chapter 2
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 RFBG 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 RFBG (per item 2 above) to address flood events associated with a 1 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
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

Guidance Principle (“The regional and state flood plans:...”)		RFP Section(s)
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
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 RFP;	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 LOD sufficient for RFPGs and sponsors of FMPs 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 TWDB, GLO, TCEQ, TSSWCB, TPWD, and the TDA, 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

Guidance Principle (“The regional and state flood plans:...”)		RFP Section(s)
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 FMSs and projects recommended by the RFPs that are based upon identification, analysis, and comparison of all FMSs the RFPs 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
25	shall be consistent with the NFIP and shall not undermine participation in nor the incentives or benefits associated with the NFIP;	Chapter 3
26	shall emphasize the fundamental importance of floodplain management policies that reduce flood risk;	Chapter 3
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

Guidance Principle (“The regional and state flood plans:...”)		RFP Section(s)
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 RFP;	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 4/5
36	shall consider benefits of flood management strategies to water quality, fish and wildlife, ecosystem function, and recreation, as appropriate;	Chapter 2, 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

Appendix 10-A | Summary Memorandum of
Pre-Planning Meeting August 4, 2021

Insert Summary Memorandum here.

Appendix 10-B | Guadalupe RFPG Stakeholder
Survey Form

Insert pdf of survey form .

Appendix 10-C | Public Comments

C.1 – Public Comments at Pre-Planning Meeting (August 4, 2021)

C.2 – Public Comments at Regular RFPG Meetings

C.3 – Compilation of Comment Tracking Matrices provided at Regular RFPG Meetings

Appendix C.1

Public Comments During Pre-Planning Public Meeting (August 4, 2021) and Virtual Public Meeting Room/ Interactive Comment Map (Aug 4 – 18, 2021)

Commenter Name	Commenter Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Method of Comment
Dianne Wassenich	Individual	Would like consideration of recreation activities in the floodplain. Would like to see the buying of land in the riparian area. To promote land conservation. Would like to see the Flood Plain elevation changed from 1ft to 2ft. The City of San Marcos took this approach	In - person
Gary Louie	Kendal	Emphasized loss of life and property; Provided letters from community; Would like consideration of funding for an early warning system; Would like to ensure that any projects keep the downstream in mind	In - person
Bob Mayo	Individual	Mentioned several projects for drinking water supply; Asked if Desalination studies have been done; Would like to keep farmland in consideration when flood planning	In - person
Linda Bishop	Individual	Would like to see the repair of the Lake Gonzales dam; Emphasized the importance of the Lake	In - person
Sara Dishman	City of Wimberley	Would like for construction activities along the river to be better enforced; Would like the enforcing of rules to be more consistent from the City of Wimberley; Believes there is a gap in	In - person

		communication between the City of Wimberley and the citizens	
Commissioner Jonathan Letz	Kerr County	Mentioned the struggles with Kerr County being in multiple watersheds; Would like to see Mayors and County Judges participating since these entities will need to apply for funding; Would like to take into consideration conservation efforts, partner with NRCS and keep water quality in mind; Would like to consider the RV Parks along the river; Kerr County would be submitting 3 projects and 2 joint projects from Kendall/Kerr County would be submitted to the RFPG.	In - person
Kari Potter	Individual	Would like to keep in mind the effect of high-density Developments and the additional impervious cover	In - person
Dennis Engelke	Caldwell County	Mentioned that Caldwell County has had multiple natural disasters from flood, fire and COVID-19; Would like for County, City and Local entities to stay involved and would like to ensure that this is a collaborative effort; Spoke of the growth in Caldwell County	In - person
Mark Gleason	San Marcos City Council	Mentioned that he was flooded twice in 2015; Mentioned that the Blanco River doesn't have any flood control and would like to know if there have been any studies done; Thanked the committee for their service	In - person

Jim Guin	TDEM	Introduced himself and informed the group that he is the individual that will be applying for hazard mitigation grants	In - person
Raymond Slade	Hydrogeologist	He shared information from published reports about flood peaks on the river at Spring Branch. He expressed concerns about the historic flood data not accurately representing the current flood plain.	VPM online
Tatjana Walker	Public Citizen	He shared opinions on recommended priorities for flood control which included increase in open space and park lands, development regulations in the flood plain, regulatory authority for counties, and protection of karst features.	VPM online
Holly Veselka	Public Citizen	She shared opinions on recommended nature based mitigation strategies. She also recommended priorities for flood control which included increase in open space and park lands, development regulations in the flood plain, regulatory authority for counties, and protection of karst features.	VPM online
Steven Fonville	Public Citizen	He shared concerns regarding the level of development currently allowed in floodway designated areas on the banks of the San Marcos River in Guadalupe Co.	VPM online
Shannon Curtice	Public Citizen	She shared recommendations on nature based solutions and watershed protection strategies.	VPM online

Eric Telford	Public Citizen	He expressed concerns over the floodplain designation on his property.	VPM online
Laurie Moyer	City of San Marcos	Identified multiple flood drainage channels and impacted roadways areas.	Interactive Comment Map
Thomas Manes	Public Citizen	Identified a flood drainage channel on the map.	Interactive Comment Map
Neil Rose	City of New Braunfels	Provided GIS data	Interactive Comment Map

Appendix C.2

Table C.2 Public Comments Made During Regular Guadalupe RFPG Meetings

C o m m e n t e r N a m e	Commenter Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Date of Regular Meeting
<u>T</u> <u>B</u> <u>D</u>			<u>January 4, 2022</u>
<u>T</u> <u>B</u> <u>D</u>			<u>December 7, 2022</u>
<u>D</u> <u>o</u> <u>u</u> <u>g</u>	<u>Flood Districts</u>	<u>Stated that he would like to get a presentation from the EPA and the US Army Corps of Engineers about the Waters of the United States. Annalisa Peace would like for the Environmental Defense Fund to give a presentation.</u>	<u>November 2, 2022</u>

C o m m e n t e r N a m e	Commenter		
	Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Date of Regular Meeting

S e t h n e s s			
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K e n e t h	Private Citizen	He has learned that is there is a repeat of the 1998 food it will have worse effects. Since that flood, the amount of impermeable ground in the basin has increased resulting in greater flooding. It is mathematically indisputable; it will be a worse flooding. GBRA has promoted the growth in this basin.	September 21, 2022
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C o m m e n t e r N a m e	Commenter Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Date of Regular Meeting
S c h u s t e r e i t			
E n n	<u>Private Citizen</u>	<u>When they built the Hwy 27 bridge, a dam was created, which forces water to go around. This situation is what killed the woman in 2016. There are 2 dams in comfort – a dam</u>	<u>September 7, 2022</u>

C o m m e n t e r N a m e	Commenter		
	Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Date of Regular Meeting

a n n u e l F i a t t e n B r i		<u>upstream and a dam downstream. These dams have led to the flooding in Comfort in 1978 and 2016.</u>	
	River Authority Rep	<u>Mentioned that GBRA is the Cooperative Technical Partner for the Guadalupe River Basin with FEMA. GBRA is taking ideas for Fiscal Year 2023 for updating flood models and mapping.</u>	<u>July 27, 2022</u>

C o m m e n t e r N a m e	Commenter Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Date of Regular Meeting
a n P e r k i n s	to Region 11 RFPG		
D o r i s	Region 12	Reviewed the public meetings that have occurred within Region 12. Reviewed the FMX process. A request has been put in to have a table at the TFMA conference for the regional flood planning groups to help share information.	June 29, 2022

C o m m e n t e r N a m e	Commenter		Date of Regular Meeting
	Affiliation	Nature of Comment	

C o o k s e y			
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N / A	<u>N/A</u>	<u>No Public Comments</u>	<u>June 1, 2022</u>
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V i r g i	TBD <u>San Marcos River Foundation</u>	<u>Spoke about four topics: 1. She has been witnessing bulldozing along the River banks where healthy riparian zones should be in place, 2. There should be funding of conservation easements especially in sensitive recharge zones, 3. At this time counties do not have the authority to protect riverways or the ability to stop break away structures being put in the flood way, and 4. Green infrastructure should be used. TBD</u>	<u>May 10, 2022</u> TBD
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C o m m e n t e r N a m e	Commenter Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Date of Regular Meeting
<u>n</u> <u>i</u> <u>a</u> <u>p</u> <u>a</u> <u>r</u> <u>k</u> <u>e</u> <u>r</u> <u>r</u> <u>B</u> <u>D</u>			

C o m m e n t e r N a m e	Commenter Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Date of Regular Meeting
B e n E I d r e d g e	Cibolo Center for Conservation	Would like the RFPG to consider the importance of natural infrastructure, such as riparian areas	March 30, 2022
B e n E	Cibolo Center for Conservation	Mentioned the importance of natural infrastructure, especially within the recharge zone.	February 9, 2022

C o m m e n t e r N a m e	Commenter Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Date of Regular Meeting
I d r e d g e	and Cow Creek GCD		
B e n E l d r	Cibolo Center for Conservation	Spoke about the San Antonio RFPG and Dr. Dorman's work with the City of Boerne on stormwater ordinances. The San Antonio RFPG has suggested recommendations/ordinances based on the work done for the City of Boerne. The recommendations were created to improve stormwater quality for cities. Region 11 "would be interested in Dr. Dorman presenting at the February meeting".	December 1, 2022

C o n r e n t e r N a m e	Commenter Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Date of Regular Meeting
A l a m o n t e r a	Chairman of the Alamo Group of the Sierra Club	Spoke of green infrastructure/nature base solutions being made a priority. Mr. Montemayor provided a letter.	November 3, 2021

C o m m e n t e r N a t u r e	Commenter Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Date of Regular Meeting
V i r g i n i a C o n	Executive Director of the San Marcos River Foundation	Two comments. Comment 1: Since the majority of the San Marcos River is not within the city limits, floodplain management falls to the county, which has had issues with grazing practices. It would be nice for counties to have more jurisdiction with regards to management. Comment 2: There are many break away structures within the floodplain, which has led to objects such as picnic tables ending up in the river during flood events.	November 3, 2021

C o m m e n t e r N a m e	Commenter Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Date of Regular Meeting
d e			
N / A	<u>N/A</u>	<u>No Public Comments</u>	<u>October 6, 2021</u>
M i c h a	N/A	Comment 1: Questions about flood planning process, rules, and recommendations. Comment 2: Has experience in the San Antonio area/Bexar County flood control district. Mentioned that frequently flooded soils area important variables, and talked about the money San Antonio has spent removing homes from the floodplain. Asked about any assistance that can help reviewers of subdivisions. Hopes that Region 11 can learn from San	September 8, 2021

C o m m e n t e r N a m e	Commenter Affiliation	Nature of Comment	Date of Regular Meeting
e l p r z i c a		Antonio. Comment 3: mentioned the importance of natural methods for treating/controlling flood waters. Comment 4: Mentioned development upstream of a quarry and resulting flooding. Wants Region 11 to consider regional effects. Comment 5: Spoke about detention ponds and soil types for future developments.	
N / A	N/A	<i>No public comments were provided at the Regular RFPG Meetings occurring November 4, 2021 – June 30, 2021.</i>	November 4, 2021 – June 30, 2021

Appendix C.3

Compilation of Comment Tracking Matrices provided at Regular RFPG Meetings

Insert pdf of All Comment Tracking Matrices here.

Appendix 10-D | Notice and Documentation of September 7, 2022, Public Hearing on Draft Flood Plan

D.1 – Legal Notice for September 7, 2022, Public Hearing on Draft Flood Plan

D.2 – Public Presentation for September 7, 2022, Public Hearing on Draft Flood Plan

D.3 – Minutes for September 7, 2022, Public Hearing on Draft Flood Plan

Appendix 10-E | Public Comments from
September 7, 2022, Public Hearing and from
second public input meeting on September 21,
2022; Written comments received during the
public comment period (August 8 through
October 7, 2022) on Draft ~~Flood Plan~~ Regional
Flood Plan

<u>Commenter Name</u>	<u>Commenter Affiliation</u>	<u>Nature of Comment</u>	<u>Date Comment Received</u>
<u>Betty Murphy</u>	<u>Private Citizen</u>	<u>Planning group must consider small towns., In 1978, Comfort was under water – 3 lives lost and millions of dollars in property damage., Nothing has been done to prevent a similar flood from happening again., If another flood happens, there will be a loss of 100 lives., Recommends that sensors (from USGS) should be installed in Cypress Creek in Comfort. These sensors could provide an early warning system for local officials to learn about a possible flood., USGS has determined the best location and cost of the sensor.</u>	<u>September 7, 2022 (Verbal comments received at first public input meeting/public hearing.)</u>
<u>Emmanuel Flatten</u>	<u>Private Citizen</u>	<u>Something needs to be done in Comfort., In 2011 he became President of the Comfort floodplain coalition., The issues are bifurcated – split between Kerr & Kendall counties with Comfort being an unincorporated town., This makes it hard to get things done. So, the solution must be approached on a regional level., As mentioned by the previous speaker, Comfort officials needs an early warning system., IN 2016, Hwy 27 bridge, a woman drowned during the flood outside of his door., Volunteer fire department staff had no warning on the last flood. They need an early warning system., No cost/benefit analysis for human life. Pamphlets telling us to move somewhere else.</u>	<u>September 7, 2022 (Verbal comments received at first public input meeting/public hearing.)</u>
<u>Kenneth Schustereit</u>	<u>Private Citizen</u>	<u>His family has lived on the Guadalupe since 1939. Need to clean up the river channel will help the Guadalupe River basin. This is the most important thing to prevent flooding., Between Guadalupe and the San Antonio rivers lies a verdant cotton field. This land is now four feet of silt, where it is used to be 25,000 acres of agricultural land. This land is now out of production due to uncontrolled flooding. To clean out the silt from the river channel, Mr. Schustereit suggested to pull the plugs out of the river – the saltwater barrier, the dams in Goff and Hog Bayous, and the log jams. This will prevent the flooding.</u>	<u>September 21, 2022 (Verbal comments received at second public input meeting.)</u>
<u>Grace Renken</u>	<u>Private Citizen</u>	<u>Purchased property in the 80's. She wanted to know when the last flood plain map was created., Drainage was put in and elevations were taken. A corner of her property is in the floodplain. When TxDOT built an intersection near her property, the water drained away from her property in the other direction. The TxDOT engineers eventually agreed with her., Therefore, Ms. Renken objected to the boundaries of the current flood plain map and would like to have the map corrected.</u>	<u>September 21, 2022 (Verbal comments received at second public input meeting.)</u>
<u>Marvin Bruce Miller</u>	<u>Private Citizen</u>	<u>For 46 years he's been battling the river water. While things have improved – not flooding property and business – there is a spot that still floods under the</u>	<u>September 21, 2022</u>

<u>Commenter Name</u>	<u>Commenter Affiliation</u>	<u>Nature of Comment</u>	<u>Date Comment Received</u>
		<p><u>railroad tracks, which flows into the city drains and eventually onto his property., Would want to have somebody talk to the railroad company to plug the hole under the track., In 1998 when the river rose 34 feet it washed the railroad tracks away and he had 4 ft of flooding in his building.</u></p>	<p><u>(Verbal comments received at second public input meeting.)</u></p>
<u>Written comments</u>			
<p><u>Carly Farmer</u></p>	<p><u>City of New Braunfels/ Transportation & Capital Improvements</u></p>	<p><u>On behalf of the City of New Braunfels, I have reviewed the Draft Region 11 Guadalupe Regional Flood Plan. I had a few comments I wanted to share with you about the efforts listed for New Braunfels. Based on our previous conversations, it is my understanding that most of these revisions won't be able to be made until the amended plan next summer.</u></p> <p><u>FMPs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>• The Wood Road/Landa Street Drainage Improvement requires further evaluation and study, so we would request it be included as an FME instead</u> <u>• The following projects are wrapping up preliminary engineering this month and we feel would be better included as FMPs:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>○ The drainage improvements associated with the Castell Avenue Corridor Plan</u> <u>○ Landa Lake Dam and Spillway Improvements</u> <u>○ Faust/Nacogdoches Drainage Improvements</u> <p><u>FMEs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>• We are good with the projects listed under FME but request to move Faust/Nacogdoches to FMP as we are wrapping up preliminary engineering this month</u> <p><u>FMSs</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <u>• The City of New Braunfels is kicking off our Drainage Area Master Plan. This plan includes extensive modeling of streams in the HUCs in our City Limits, ETJ, and beyond, and identification of potential regional drainage projects. Is this project captured in the FMS section of the Draft Plan, or should it be included elsewhere?</u> 	<p><u>September 8, 2022</u></p>

<u>Commenter Name</u>	<u>Commenter Affiliation</u>	<u>Nature of Comment</u>	<u>Date Comment Received</u>
<p><u>Sonia Sams and Jerry Cotter</u></p>	<p><u>USACE</u></p>	<p><u>Table 8.1: Legislative Recommendations:</u> <u>Non regulatory regional flood control or drainage districts should be established and funded for rapidly growing urban areas such as DFW, Houston, San Antonio, etc. Responsibility would be to provide consistency, technical resources, funding, and reviews in support of FME's, FMS's. These organizations would also implement or support implementation of FMP's. These organizations would augment communities and counties that just don't have the resources and expertise to manage flooding. Rapidly developing areas surrounding larger urban centers are at greater risk of having runoff patterns increasing because of development. These urban areas are comprised of many communities and unincorporated county areas. Many of the smaller communities are not funded or resourced to deal with the complexities of floodplain management and therefore there is a lack of or inconsistencies in floodplain management practices.</u></p> <p><u>Although state legislation was passed in the early 2000's which gave counties the ability to regulate floodplains, interpretation of these regulations varies widely from county to county. The legislate bill lacks implementation guidance in the form of administrative rules. If development is occurring in unincorporated areas, this development can dynamically impact flood risk.</u></p> <p><u>Clarify the early 2000's, state legislation that provides counties the authority to regulate floodplains to explicitly allow and encourage activities associated with floodplain management such as development of land use plans, regulatory authorities, such as permitting.</u></p> <p><u>Table 8.2 Administrative Recommendations:</u> <u>Require the use of n-values and channel conditions which would likely result if the channel or project were not maintained. Exceptions would be golf courses or other areas where an organization exists which would maintain the channel in perpetuity. Disallow maintenance by marginal organizations such as homeowners' associations to justify acceptance of lower n-values as this is an unrealistic expectation.</u></p>	<p><u>September 26, 2022</u></p>

<u>Commenter Name</u>	<u>Commenter Affiliation</u>	<u>Nature of Comment</u>	<u>Date Comment Received</u>
		<p><u>When channels are constructed, most often channel bed, banks and overbanks are cleared; however, with many miles of these channels, it is often difficult for communities to maintain those beds, banks, and overbanks at their design conditions. Generally, there is a lack of channel maintenance to ensure flood conveyance areas, established as part of a development or improvement projects, to retain their design level n-values. This results in unexpected changes in channel conveyance and increased flooding. Channel maintenance is very expensive activity that can trigger environmental permitting requirements.</u></p> <p><u>Use of ultimate development land use conditions in the development of future flows. Require use of future flows for regulation of floodplains and development of FMP's.</u></p> <p>Potential FMS:</p> <p><u>Encourage storm shifting to validate 100-yr estimates and to provide a broader understanding of communities' actual flood risk. Storms identified and cataloged as part of the GLO funded USACE led Texas Storm Study could be the primary source of storms to be shifted.</u></p> <p><u>Notes: Great deal of uncertainty in 100-yr estimates. Use of observed storms that approximately match depth duration data from NOAA Atlas 14 or other precipitation frequency sources validates 100-yr estimates. Additionally wet, dry, and average conditions as well as conditions at the time the storm occurred can be presented. Additionally, communities have and can experience storms that exceed the 100-yr. While not regulatory, this information will provide additional hazard mitigation data so communities can address critical infrastructure impacts and be better prepared. Add detail to Watershed Hydrology Assessments (WHA) for communities within basins with completed WHA's. The WHA for the Trinity has been completed. The WHA's, funded by FEMA, are considered the best available flood flow frequency estimates, e.g., 100-yr. These estimates consider the latest precipitation frequencies, the variations in watershed response and determine critical flood drivers by employing a wide range of sensitivity analysis for each computation point.</u></p>	

<u>Commenter Name</u>	<u>Commenter Affiliation</u>	<u>Nature of Comment</u>	<u>Date Comment Received</u>
		<p><u>Update WHA's when future precipitation frequency estimates become available. Efforts to develop future precipitation frequency estimates for Texas are starting. Establish regional efforts, for large urban centers to develop future land use data for all developing areas, not just incorporated areas, for use in developing future flood flow frequency estimates and future 100-yr (and other recurrence interval) hazard boundaries.</u></p>	
<p><u>Doug Sethness</u></p>	<p><u>DeWitt County Drainage District No. 1</u></p>	<p><u>Comment 1 - Background</u> <u>The DCDD1 performs drainage activities throughout its authorized area of operation, an area initially described in the enabling legislation as the city limits of Cuero, Texas and has remained constricted by this designation. The flooding which the DCDD1 was required to mitigate does not occur because of rainfall or runoff coming solely from within the city boundaries. The flow of water is a result of the topography given the truth that water flows downhill regardless of whether it crosses a city limit boundary or not. Thus, the ability of the DCDD1 to undertake provisions to provide efficient and effective control of flood waters is limited without any authority to mitigate the flow of water into the city from outside the city limits. Other states and jurisdictions have recognized this truth and have provided for drainage districts to expand to the limits of the watershed directs affecting the flooding the district is required to control. DCDD1 has authority only within approximately one-third of the area contributing to the flooding of Cuero, Texas. It is recommended the State of Texas pass legislation to allow the DCDD1 to expand its boundaries to include the total of the areas contributing to the flooding of Cuero, Texas.</u></p> <p><u>Comment 1:</u> <u>Change the legislation pertaining to Drainage Districts to allow the expansion of the authorized area of the Drainage District, specifically DeWitt County Drainage District No. 1, to expand to the watershed boundaries, instead of the current restriction to city. I think this</u></p>	<p><u>September 27, 2022</u></p>

<u>Commenter Name</u>	<u>Commenter Affiliation</u>	<u>Nature of Comment</u>	<u>Date Comment Received</u>
		<p><u>should be a legislative action. I believe this issue may fit into the category of Flood Management Strategy.</u></p> <p><u>Comment 2:</u> <u>Past and current funds being routed down from the State (Community Development Block Grant Mitigation Action Plan funds) to the Golden Crescent Regional Planning Commission for distribution to include programs to abate flooding issues (including “Buy Outs”) do not identify Drainage Districts as a qualified entity for receipt in the distribution of funds although Drainage Districts are designated by the State for flood control, community health, and safety. In the past, a county or a city was qualified but not a drainage district. This is unreasonable and the designation of entities qualified to receive this funding should include Drainage Districts. I am not sure if this is an administrative or legislative issue. I believe this issue may fit into the category of Flood Management Strategy.</u></p>	
		<p><u>Comment 3 – Background:</u> <u>The City of Cuero has flooded numerous times. Most remembered of the more recent events resulted from Hurricane Harvey and in the 1998 Flood. Located in very close proximity to the Guadalupe River and being at a low elevation relative to the river at flood stage, the City of Cuero is very subject to flooding resulting from extreme events in other parts of the Guadalupe River watershed resulting is a significant rise in river elevation causing flood waters to go directly from the river into the city. A cursory review of the topography along the riverbank above and below the City of Cuero create an interest in the possibility of the construction of a levee to prevent a swollen, out of (natural) bank Guadalupe River from causing extreme flooding in Cuero as occurred in 1998.</u></p> <p><u>Comment 3:</u> <u>Identify the need for an engineering study to determine the potential of significant benefit to Cuero from a levee protecting the city from a swollen, out of bank, flooded river from causing extreme life safety and catastrophic damage as has been experienced in Cuero on numerous</u></p>	

<u>Committer Name</u>	<u>Committer Affiliation</u>	<u>Nature of Comment</u>	<u>Date Comment Received</u>
		<p><u>occasions. I believe this issue may fit into the category of Flood Management Evaluation.</u></p> <p><u>Thank you very much for your consideration of the needs of the DeWitt County Drainage District to serve the public more effectively.</u></p>	
<u>Annalisa Peace</u>	<u>Great Edwards Aquifer Alliance</u>	<p><u>These comments are submitted on behalf of the fifty-five member groups of the Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance and the undersigned supporting organizations.</u></p> <p><u>Background</u></p> <p><u>State legislation enabling the Regional Flood Plan process provided guidelines and deliverables to be accomplished by each flood planning group, with regional plans becoming the basis of a state flood plan. Included in deliverable was the request for proposed flood mitigation projects to be considered for future funding. Enabling legislation also directed the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to identify and evaluate natural flood mitigation features and include Nature Based Solutions (NBS) within proposed flood mitigation projects.</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>While TWDB has been very responsive to the questions and concerns expressed by the various Regional Flood Planning Groups (RFPG), the process highlighted several areas of concern regarding the evaluation of natural flood mitigation features for their level of function and use in flood mitigation. This process highlighted the current lack of data specific to Texas regions needed to accurately evaluate natural flood mitigation features and, therefore, the need for methods beyond a traditional Hydrologic Engineering Center's - River Analysis System (HEC-RAS) approach. In addition, Technical Consultant outreach to communities demonstrated the need to increase knowledge on incorporating not only the protection and restoration of natural flood mitigation features but also in general, NBS into flood control strategies.</u></p> <hr/> <p><u>Nature Based Solutions will need to be woven into every facet of this program and incorporated into future policies and strategies to empower community</u></p>	<u>October 7, 2022</u>

<u>Commenter Name</u>	<u>Commenter Affiliation</u>	<u>Nature of Comment</u>	<u>Date Comment Received</u>
		<p data-bbox="537 289 1122 357"><u>collaboration and leverage the state’s vast network of natural ecosystems in building resilient communities.</u></p> <p data-bbox="537 403 743 430"><u>Recommendations</u></p> <p data-bbox="537 438 1057 541"><u>Broad and specific recommendations have been collected from RFPG committee members and collaborators across the state, including:</u></p> <p data-bbox="537 588 1149 728"><u>1. Increase funding for and use of Nature Based Solutions, and reduce hurdles to their incorporation into the Regional Flood Plans as Flood Mitigation Strategies, Evaluations and Projects by:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="634 737 1068 835"><u>a. Increasing number of trainings and workshops on accurate cost benefit analysis and use of NBS;</u> <li data-bbox="634 842 1149 1178"><u>b. Improving modeling methods to provide greater sensitivity beyond traditional hydrological models to include soil porosity and moisture holding capacity, plant interception, evaporation, and transpiration; and other processes that affect flows and interactions with groundwater; as well as water quality improvements and groundwater recharge that can be realized with NBS;</u> <li data-bbox="634 1184 1149 1318"><u>c. Expanding the TWDB’s concept of “adverse impact” to include loss of functioning floodplains and the resiliency that they provide;</u> <li data-bbox="634 1325 1105 1493"><u>d. Incentivizing collaboration across watersheds and jurisdictions towards a regional approach to floodplain management using NBS by prioritizing such projects.</u> <p data-bbox="537 1528 1068 1596"><u>2. Ensure that the TWDB’s cost benefit analysis appropriately weights projects offering:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li data-bbox="634 1604 1068 1671"><u>a. Increased social and environmental benefits,</u> <li data-bbox="634 1677 1127 1709"><u>b. Reduced negative environmental impact,</u> <li data-bbox="634 1715 1149 1885"><u>c. Reduced cost avoidance for infrastructure replacement (for data on gray infrastructure replacement costs: https://mediaspace.du.edu/media/David+Skuodas+-</u> 	

<u>Commenter Name</u>	<u>Commenter Affiliation</u>	<u>Nature of Comment</u>	<u>Date Comment Received</u>
		<p data-bbox="678 340 1149 407"><u>+Seeing+the+Forest+and+the+Trees/1_g90zp1xz), and</u></p> <p data-bbox="633 415 1140 512"><u>d. Increased flood prevention for future conditions while also creating resiliency to recover after natural disasters.</u></p> <p data-bbox="535 541 1107 638"><u>3. Recognize the role that land development codes and location of infrastructure have on flood impacts:</u></p> <p data-bbox="633 651 1140 919"><u>a. Educate on the need for counties to use their ability provided by the State to exert authority to influence development and reduce negative impacts to natural features that mitigate flooding and enable counties to levy stormwater/drainage utility fees to retrofit and maintain natural flood infrastructure,</u></p> <p data-bbox="633 932 1133 1163"><u>b. Promote and fund the use of NBS throughout watersheds with the understanding that most natural flood mitigation features, including floodplains, are in some state of degradation and can be improved with appropriate land use policies,</u></p> <p data-bbox="633 1176 1149 1407"><u>c. Recommend policy changes that enable Counties or Groundwater Conservation Districts to protect Natural Aquifer Storage and Recovery features (e.g., karst, fracture zones, and sinkholes) that help mitigate flood severity while transferring potential flood water into aquifers, and</u></p> <p data-bbox="633 1419 1149 1764"><u>d. Partner with other agencies to incorporate flood considerations into applicable agency activities (e.g., ensure TxDOT builds to 1% annual probability (“100-year”) standards and uses updated flood maps defined by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (currently the Atlas 14 data) and that such infrastructure does not increase downstream flooding nor damage floodplains and riparian corridors.</u></p> <p data-bbox="535 1801 964 1835"><u>4. Specific project recommendations:</u></p>	

<u>Commenter Name</u>	<u>Commenter Affiliation</u>	<u>Nature of Comment</u>	<u>Date Comment Received</u>
		<p data-bbox="634 279 1127 373"><u>a. Fund a Texas Watershed Initiative similar to Louisiana’s¹ with a robust program on use and adoption of NBS,</u></p> <p data-bbox="634 384 1146 688"><u>b. Provide training and technical resources to flood districts, river authorities, municipal utility districts, water control and improvement districts, and municipal and county floodplain managers to advance understanding and adoption of NBS and best practices for maintaining floodplains and other natural flood mitigation features to fully realize potential benefits,</u></p> <p data-bbox="634 699 1149 835"><u>c. Use all available federal and state programs to prioritize the preservation and restoration of natural flood mitigation features throughout watersheds,</u></p> <p data-bbox="634 846 1122 940"><u>d. Develop a compendium of Nature-Based resources for non-coastal communities, and</u></p> <p data-bbox="634 951 1133 1087"><u>e. Review submitted FMPs, FMEs and FMSs submitted for this first 5-year cycle to determine the feasibility to augment with NBS aspects.</u></p> <p data-bbox="537 1108 670 1140"><u>Conclusions</u></p> <p data-bbox="537 1150 1149 1665"><u>If preventative flood mitigation strategies are not prioritized for funding, then flood events will be more frequent and will cause greater harm, leading to much higher costs for Texas taxpayers. Similarly, if natural infrastructure that mitigates flooding is degraded, undoing the damage to many of these features may be cost-prohibitive or otherwise impossible. Retrofitting with flood control projects is also short sighted as opposed to incorporating pathways for prevention such as those already in use in many other states. Conversely, strategically protecting natural infrastructure and placing Nature Based Solutions throughout a watershed can significantly reduce flood risks along tributaries and major riverine systems alike.</u></p> <hr data-bbox="586 1686 824 1696"/>	

¹ <https://watershed.la.gov/nature-based-solutions>

**Appendix 10-F | Responses to Public
Comments from September 7, 2022, Public
Hearing on Draft Flood Plan**

Appendix 10-G | State Agency Comments on Draft Flood Plan

Appendix 10-H | Response to State Agency Comments on Draft Flood Plan