

Meeting Minutes
Region 11 Guadalupe Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting
August 4, 2021 at 2:00 PM
Wimberley Community Center (14068 Ranch Rd. 12, Wimberley, TX 78676)

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u>	<u>Present (x) / Absent () / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Doug Miller Melissa Reynolds*	<i>Agricultural</i>	X
John Johnston	<i>Counties</i>	
Lon Shell	<i>Counties</i>	X
Bobby Christmas	<i>Electric Generating Utilities</i>	X
Annalisa Peace Vanessa Puig-Williams*	<i>Environmental</i>	X
Beth Parker Doug Sethness*	<i>Flood districts</i>	*
Kevin Stone	<i>Industries</i>	
Joseph Pantalion Laurie Moyer*	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
Ken Gill	<i>Municipalities</i>	
Dr. Kimberly Meitzen	<i>Public</i>	X
R. Brian Perkins Charlie Hickman*	<i>River Authorities</i>	X
Ray Buck Jonathan Letz*	<i>River Authorities</i>	X
Gian Villarreal Tami Norton*	<i>Small Business</i>	X
Ronald (Ron) Fieseler	<i>Water Districts</i>	X
Vacant	<i>Water Utilities</i>	

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent() / Alternate Present (*)</u>
Sue Reilly Beth Bendik*	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Jami McCool	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Allen Nash	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Kris Robles	General Land Office	
Morgan White Richard Bagans*	Texas Water Development Board (TWDB)	X
Joel Klumpp Brittney Wortham-Teakell*	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Don Durden	Public	X
Suzanne Scott	Region 12 Liaison	X
Patrick Brzozowski	Region 10 Liaison	

Quorum:

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **11**

Number required for quorum per current voting positions of 15: **8**

Other Meeting Attendees:

Lauren Willis, GBRA (Facilitator)	Michael Boese, City of Wimberley
Jay Scanlon, Freese & Nichols, Inc.	Charlie Flatten, Hays Trinity GCD
Velma Danielson, Blanton & Associates	Virgil Maldow, PEC
Alicia Reinmund-Martinez, Blanton & Associates	Kurt Buckner, PEC
Robert Ryan, Blanton & Associates	Diana Gonzales, PEC
Katie Welch, Blanton & Associates	Blake Neffendorf, City of Buda
Gilya Garcia, Blanton & Associates	Jim Guin, TDEM
Daniel Harris, Scheibe Consulting	Marcus Pacheco, Hays County
Duke Altman, Doucet & Associates	Humberto Ramos, CRWA
Hays County Judge Ruben Becerra	Michael Sharp, City of Seguin
Anita Collins, Hays County	Sara Dishman, Wimberley
Joyce Yannuzzi, Representing Sen. Campbell	Bob Mayo, Land Owner Cypress Creek
Eugenie Schieve, Representing Rep. Zwiener	Linda Bishop, H-4 Lake Gonzales
Guadalupe County Commissioner Drew Engelke	Delton Bishop, H-4 Lake Gonzales
Comal County Commissioner Jen Crownover	Dianne Wassenich, Individual
Kerr County Commission Jonathan Letz	Ken Bennett, Center Point
Christine Byrne, Wimberley City Council	Gary Louie, Kendall
Mark Gleason, San Marcos City Council	Eric Van Gaasbeek, Hays County
John Espinoza, City of San Marcos TFMA	Ray Don Tilley, WVWA
Melissa Zwicke, Guadalupe County	Christina Lopez, Plum Creek Watershed
Shelly Jackson, Guadalupe County	Kurt Solis, Comfort Flood Plan Coalition
Mike Jones, Hays County	Sheila Stiles
Dennis Engelke, Caldwell County	Kari Potter
Nathan Glaiser, City of Wimberley	

All meeting materials are available for the public at: <http://www.quadalupeRFPG.org>

AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Chairman Doug Miller called the meeting to order at 4:02 PM. Lauren Willis called roll of the planning group members to record attendance and a quorum was established.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome

Chairman Miller welcomed members to the meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Approval of Minutes from the June 30, 2021 Region 11 RFPG Meeting

Chairman Miller opened discussion on approving the minutes from the June 30, 2021 Region 11 RFPG Meeting.

A motion was made by Bobby Christmas to approve the June 30, 2021 Region 11 RFPG Meeting. Ron Fieseler seconded the motion. The meeting minutes were approved by consensus.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Region 11 Guadalupe RFPG Chair Updates

Chairman Miller thanked the public for attending the meeting and briefly discussed the process of taking the public input for agenda item #10. The public would have the opportunity to give comments, the RFPG members would not address any comments and the RFPG members would be available after the meeting to have any necessary further discussion.

Chairman Miller discussed the Attendance Code of Conduct reviewing the by-laws: three consecutive absences or at least one-half of the sum of all meetings in twelve months, shall be considered in excessive absenteeism and shall be subject to removal. Five members have perfect attendance, 3 members have perfect attendance with their alternate present and the other members have missed multiple meetings. In November of 2021, the RFPG will have been meeting for one year. Chairman Miller announced that voting RFPG members will not be able to name a non-voting RFPG member as an alternate from now on.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) Updates

Morgan White provided updates regarding the additional funding of \$10 million available September 1, 2021 to be split between 15 regions. The group sponsors and technical consultants of the 15 regions filled out surveys provided by the TWDB.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Guadalupe Region 11 REFPG Sponsor Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) Updates

Lauren Willis thanked the public for attending and reminded everyone of the guadalupeRFPG.org website. She mentioned the first invoice for reimbursement was submitted to the TWDB for about \$2,000 and that she would be giving additional updates on spending in the future.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Discussion and potential action regarding the solicitation to fill the vacant voting position in the Water Utilities interest category.

Chairman Miller announced that Joseph McDaniel resigned on Thursday, July 1, 2021 after being relocated for his job. This position will be posted for at least 30 days and will be posted on the website and emailed to the RFPG members and the County Clerks offices. The process will remain the same in selecting the new voting RFPG member, the Executive Committee will interview and provide a recommendation to the full RFPG

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Discussion and potential action regarding Region 11 RFPG Technical Consultants work and schedule.

Velma Danielson reviewed the Public Involvement Plan, focusing on the Public and Stakeholder Involvement Strategies (1) Public and Stakeholder Contact List, Interactive Mapping Tools and Surveys,

GBRA Website Information, Social Media, Virtual Public Meeting Format, and Public Comment Tracking Response and Reporting.

Jay Scanlon introduced Duke Altman to discuss Task 3 Flood Management/Mitigation Practices and Goals. Potential floodplain management considerations were discussed for low water crossings, buildings in the floodplain, accommodating population growth and adequacy of ongoing practices. An interactive session using Mentimeter was introduced to poll both the public and the RFPG members. The following questions were asked through Mentimeter:

1. Express with one word your top priority for the Regional Flood Planning effort?
2. Does your interest category consider these issues an impediment to effective floodplain management?
3. Select the top 3 flooding concerns for your interest category?
4. How important are the following outcomes for a successful Regional Flood Plan?
5. Indicate your initial preference with regard to regional floodplain management standards?
6. Potential Management Practices
7. Potential Goal Categories
8. Loss of Life Potential Metrics
9. Property Damage Potential Metrics

The results for the Mentimeter interactive session are located in Appendix A. Commissioner Durden commented on defining low water crossings and would like for consideration to be given to recreation and RV parks located within the floodplain. Joe Pantalione commented on defining achievability. Dr. Kimberley Meitzen commented on defining Permanent vs. Temporary structures. Morgan White commented that the TWDB is currently working on compiling a list of ordinances and current practices across the state. Jay Scanlon commented that he would provide the Texas Floodplain Management Association (TFMA) 2018 data to the RFPG.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Consider date and agenda items for next meeting

Doug Miller opened discussion to consider the date and agenda items for the next meeting. The September meeting is being moved from September 1st to Wednesday, September 8th because of multiple RFPG members attending a conference.

Lauren Willis mentioned that Commissioner Don Durden was able to find a meeting location for the October meeting in Comfort at one of the camps.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Pre-Planning Public Input: The RFPG is soliciting public input regarding suggestions and recommendations as 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 (as required per Texas Water Code §16.062(d) and 31 Texas Administrative Code §361.12(a)(4) and 361.21(h)(2)(A)).

Chairman Miller gave instructions for public comment; individuals were asked to step up to the microphone and state their name and organization, public comments were limited to about 5 minutes, and a reminder was given that the RFPG members would not be addressing comments. The floor was

opened for public comments. The full list of individuals and comments can be found in Appendix B. Mr. Gary Louie provided letters to the RFPG during his public comment (Appendix C).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Public General comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

No additional public comments were given.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Adjourn

Brian Perkins made a motion to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Bobby Christmas. The motion passed by unanimous consent.

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 PM by Doug Miller.

Approved by the Region 11 Guadalupe RFPG at a meeting held on 09/08/2021.



Brian Perkins, SECRETARY



Doug Miller, CHAIR

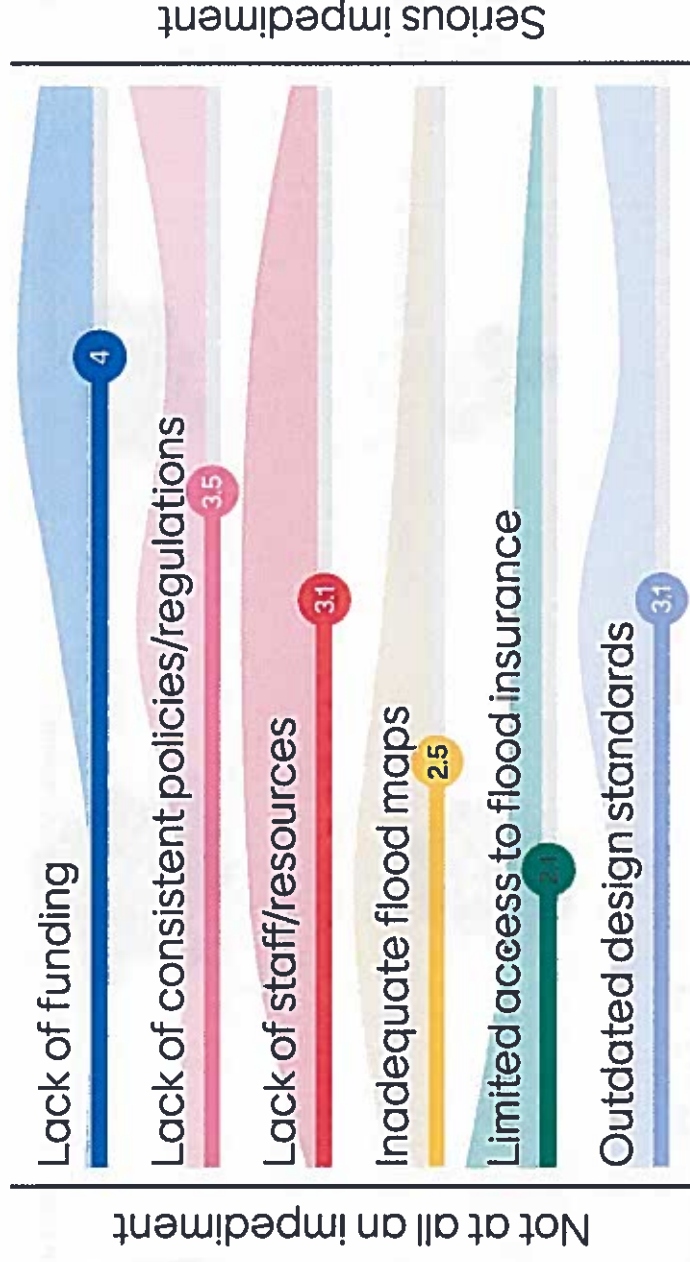
Appendix A

Mentimeter Survey Results

Express with one word your top priority for the Regional Flood Planning effort



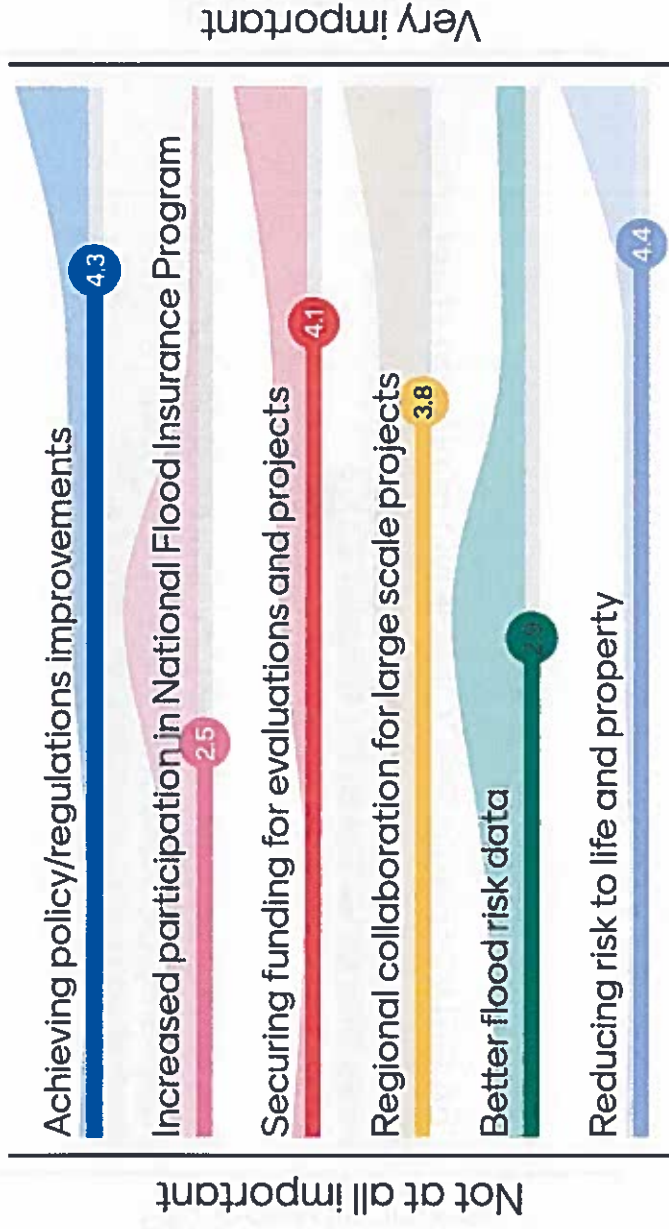
Does your interest category consider these issues an impediment to effective floodplain management?



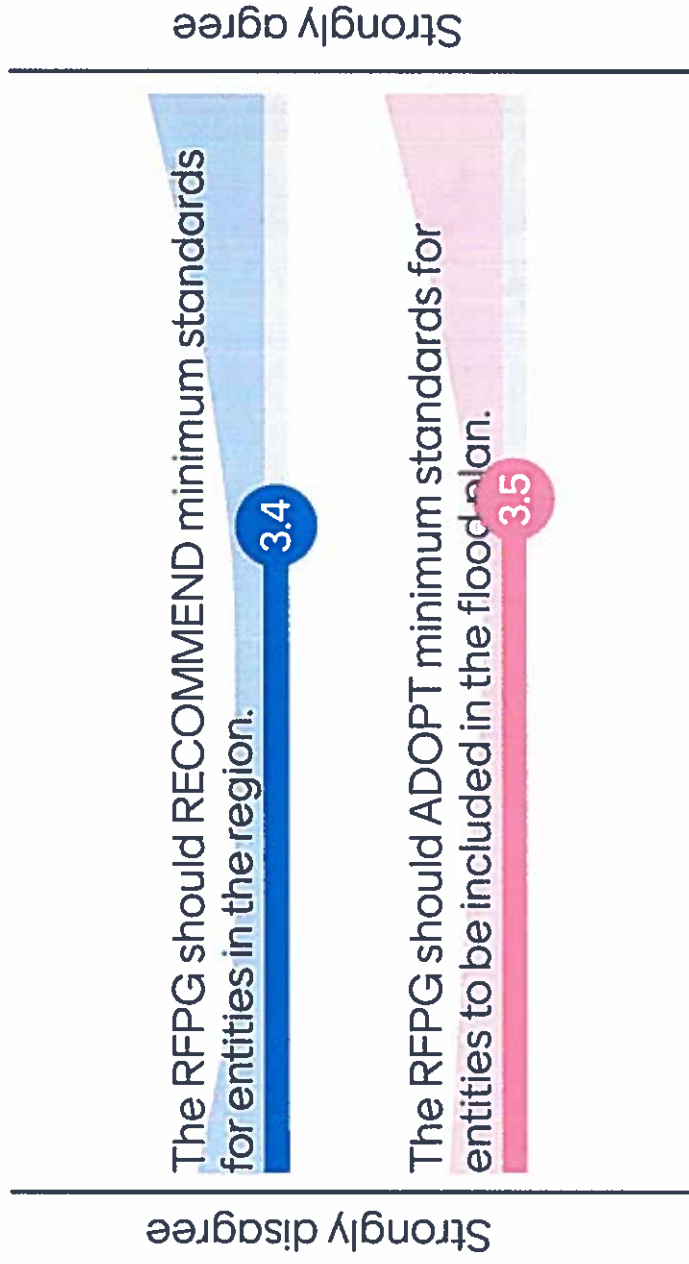
Select the top 3 flooding concerns for your interest category:



How important are the following outcomes for a successful Regional Flood Plan?



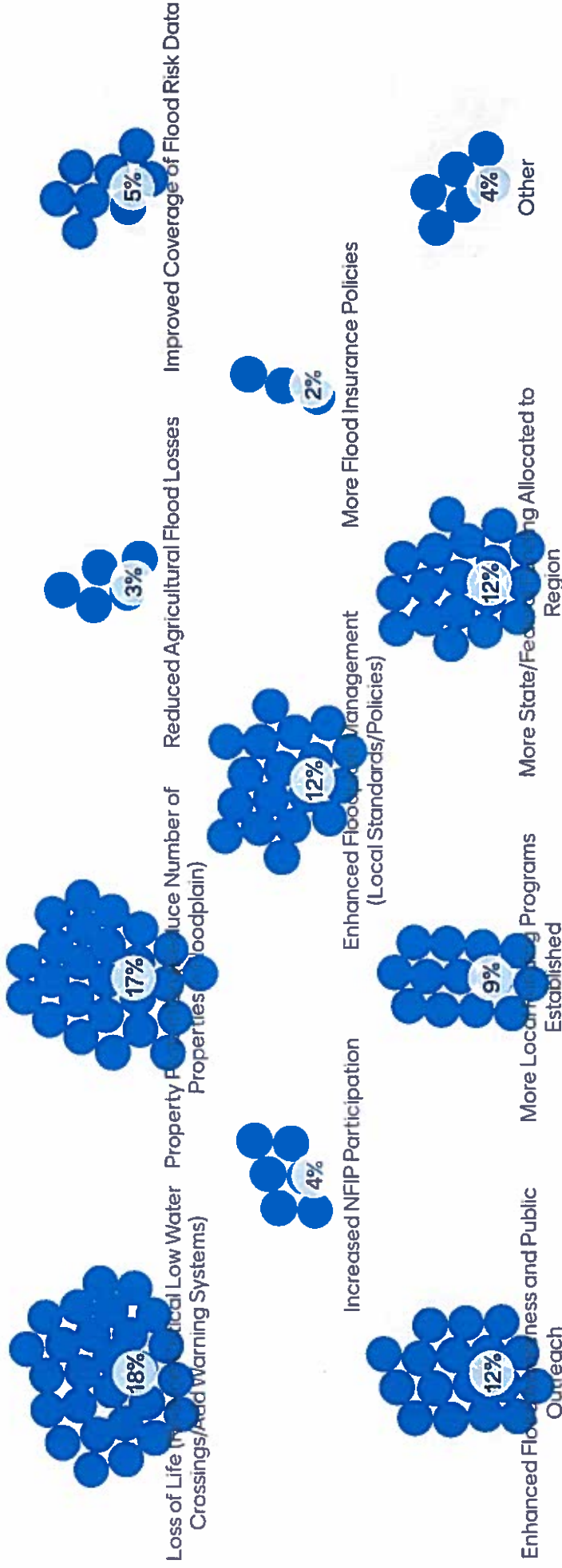
Indicate your initial preference with regard to regional floodplain management standards:



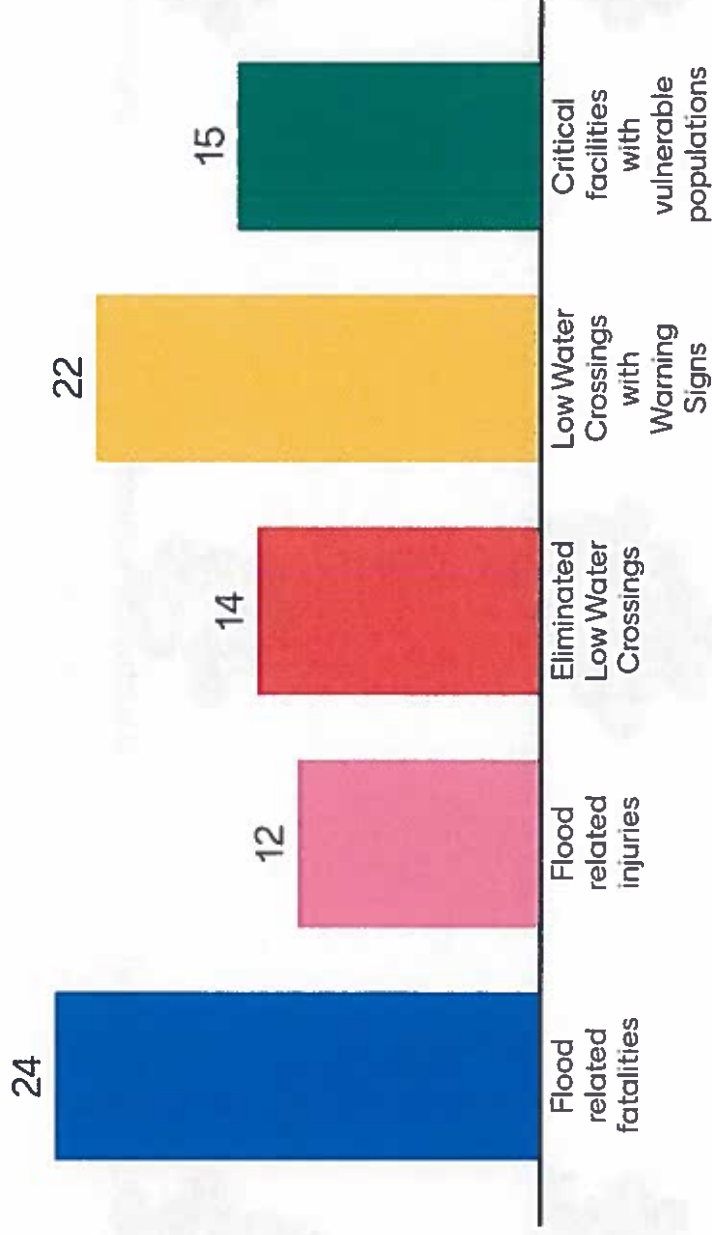
Potential Management Practices



Potential Goal Categories (select all that apply)



Loss of Life Potential Metrics



Property Damage Potential Metrics



Structures removed from 1% (100-year)



Critical facilities removed from 0.2% (500-year)



Structures removed from 10% (10-year)



Structures acquired for repair & demolished)



Structures elevated



Structures flood proofed

Appendix B

Matrix – Stakeholder/Public Comment

NAME/AFFILIATION	STAKEHOLDER/PUBLIC COMMENTS
<p style="text-align: center;">Dianne Wassenich/ Individual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Wassenich is a resident of San Marcos. She indicated that she was very interested and concerned about recreational development within floodplain. • She noted that during future flooding events, debris from these developments could potentially become a “battering ram” downstream. • Mrs. Wassenich also emphasized that land conservation measures, especially of riparian areas and in the 100-year flood plain, need to be implemented. • She suggested that these lands should be bought, and that funding for this measure should be the highest priority. • Mrs. Wassenich also suggested that land at higher elevations should be open and undeveloped. • Mrs. Wassenich stated that the City of San Marcos did a “sensible” thing by increasing the elevation at which development can occur and changing the floodplain elevation from 1ft to 2ft. • She would like the floodplain raised from 1ft to 2ft elsewhere. • Lastly, Mrs. Wassenich emphasized the importance of purchasing land.
<p style="text-align: center;">Gary Louie/Individual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Gary Louie is a resident of Comfort, Texas. • Mr. Louie noted that the funding for an early warning system is of importance. • Mr. Louie provided several letters to the RFBG regarding an early warning system and concern for loss of life, and he stated that the funding of an early warning system is affordable and timely. • Mr. Louie also stated that restrictors and retention devices will result in less property damage and provide some long-term economic benefits. • Mr. Louie would like to ensure that any projects keep the downstream in mind.

NAME/AFFILIATION	STAKEHOLDER/PUBLIC COMMENTS
<p style="text-align: center;">Bob Mayo/ Individual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Bob Mayo is a resident of Comfort. • Mr. Mayo was interested to know how much funding is available for these projects. • Mr. Mayo also mentioned that people have been getting drinking water out of Cypress Creek. • He noted that development on the land between the Cypress Creek and the river is not possible and suggested turning the area in to a lake. • Mr. Mayo also cited a concern over the pumping of water to the cities. • Mr. Mayo asked if desalination studies have been completed. • Mr. Mayo would like to keep farmland in consideration during flood planning.
<p style="text-align: center;">Linda Bishop/ Individual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Linda Bishop, a landowner on Lake Gonzales, expressed concern regarding a non-responsive gate on the dam. • She stated that the gates were up and down throughout the day of August 4th. • Mrs. Bishop also noted that a news service came to her property to report on the issues at the dam. • Mrs. Bishop also expressed concern over the homes in Gonzales and Cuero that were destroyed and is afraid that will happen to her property. • She stated that as of August 3rd, both gates were down at the Lake Gonzales Dam. • Mrs. Bishop stated that “those dams need to be in place for the next flood. Now there is no H-5, and no dam for Lake Gonzales.” • Mrs. Bishop noted that she is afraid Lake Gonzales will be drained like Lake Dunlap. • Mrs. Bishop wanted to clarify that she did not contact the news service to come to her property.

NAME/AFFILIATION	STAKEHOLDER/PUBLIC COMMENTS
<p style="text-align: center;">Sara Dishman/ Individual and former City of Wimberley Councilmember</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Sara Dishman stated that she is a Hays County resident and a former City of Wimberley Councilmember. • Mrs. Dishman noted that rock wall structures with stairs have been built along the river to create easy access to the river. • Mrs. Dishman emphasized that this development was dangerous. • Mrs. Dishman stated that she was present during the flood in 2015. She noted that six years have passed, and people have forgotten. • Mrs. Dishman commented that current officials are not making flood planning a priority. • Mrs. Dishman emphasized the importance of disseminating information to local governments, and said that communication is lacking, and that city elected officials are not aware of flooding issues. • She then cited the lack of communication has led to local governments not enforcing rules, which would have prevented the development of the rock walls along the river. • Mrs. Dishman wanted construction activities along the river to be better enforced and regulated. • Mrs. Dishman wanted to ensure that municipalities have the information needed so that the rules don't change when the people in charge change. • Mrs. Dishman wanted rule enforcement to be more consistent from the City of Wimberley and believed there is a gap in communication between the City of Wimberley and the citizens.
<p style="text-align: center;">Commissioner Jonathan Letz/ Kerr County</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commissioner Letz noted that Kerr County is part of five river basins, making it difficult to plan for. He encouraged that there should be direct communication with county judges and mayors. • Commissioner Letz stated that conservation priorities will have a huge impact on water quality and runoff. • Commissioner Letz noted that he would like to take into consideration conservation efforts, partner with NRCS, and keep water quality in mind. • Commissioner Letz also noted that RV parks need to be looked at. • Commissioner Letz notified the RFPG that Kerr County will be submitting three flood planning projects, and he wanted to know how to do that and what the deadline for submission was. • He also stated that there will be two joint projects from Kendall/Kerr counties that will be submitted to the RFPG.

NAME/AFFILIATION	STAKEHOLDER/PUBLIC COMMENTS
<p>Dennis Engelke/ Caldwell County staff</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Engelke stated that Caldwell County has been identified as a natural disaster county many times. • Mr. Engelke stated that flood planning will take a collaborative effort. He wanted to work collaboratively with this RFPG. • He encouraged county officials to get involved in the flood planning process. • Mr. Engelke noted that Caldwell County has applied for a grant to develop a (flood) management plan and has utilized existing resources. • He suggested that others take advantage of the existing resources, such as TWDB grants. • Mr. Engelke also noted that Caldwell County is involved in a buy-out program to turn previously flooded properties into green space. • Mr. Engelke wanted to encourage local governments to work together to solve this problem and thanked the RFPG for being an available collaborative resource. • Mr. Engelke also made note of the growth in Caldwell County.
<p>Raymond Slade/Individual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Slade submitted his comments through the Guadalupe RFPG Virtual Public Meeting website. He requested that the following comments be read to the RFPG: “As a hydrologist my studies have included the Guadalupe River. I published a report about flood peaks on the river. The study documents that annual peaks have increased 38 % for the river at Spring Branch. Because of this the 100-year flood plain as published is too low. This is because the flood plain is based on historic data but does not represent increased floods. I was in contact with NOAA about Atlas 14 which represents the current floodplain. They agree with me about this problem but do not have the authority to include increased floods in the creation of the current Guadalupe River floodplains. Any questions about this can be sent to me.”
<p>Kari Potter/Individual</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs. Potter was concerned about proposed high density developments in eastern Kerr County near the Guadalupe River. • She expressed concern that these developments and their impervious cover will have runoff that will go directly into the Guadalupe River and potentially impact drinking water downstream She noted that there will be 300 houses and RV lots. • Mrs. Potter commented that high density developments could be an issue and was concerned about their environmental impact.

NAME/AFFILIATION	STAKEHOLDER/PUBLIC COMMENTS
<p style="text-align: center;">Mark Gleason/ City of San Marcos Councilmember</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Gleason stated that he was acting on his own behalf. His property was flooded twice in 2015. • He mentioned that the Blanco River doesn't have any flood control measures and wanted to know if there have been any studies completed. • Mr. Gleason stated that "we should be looking at this (flood planning) regionally." • Mr. Gleason wanted the group to look at the Blanco River. He noted that the Blanco River has thousands of structures built within the floodplain that can't be bought out. • He emphasized that there is a need to implement projects for the Blanco.
<p>Jim Huen/Texas Division of Emergency Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr. Huen is the Region 6 floodplain coordinator. He mentioned that he can offer help with hazard mitigation grants.

Appendix C

Emails and letters submitted to RFBG on August 4, 2021

Beth Bourland
#10 High Street Road
Comfort, Texas 78013
bethbourland@hotmail.com

August 4, 2021

Via email

Don Durden,
Kendall County Commissioner Precinct 4
201 E. San Antonio Ave.
Boerne, TX 78006
don.durden@co.kendall.tx.us

Dear Don,

I have lived in Comfort for 36 years. My husbands' family has lived here since the early late 1900s. Our interest in flood management planning arises from both personal observation and historic understanding of the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Cypress Creek. We applaud comprehensive floodplain management strategies that consider structural and nonstructural programs on both waterways.

We support state and local flood mitigation plans that can reduce disaster losses and break the cycle of disaster damage, reconstruction, and repeated damage. Measures that arise from this work will save lives and advance community endorsed initiatives such as capital improvements, economic development, environmental quality, and riparian preservation.

Stream monitoring and early warning notification systems for flash flooding on Cypress Creek would be relatively low-cost and life saving measures that would allow residents and emergency services to respond quickly and appropriately. We consider this to be a priority.

Given that increased development along the Cypress Creek is occurring and will continue to escalate, stream monitoring will also allow us to better understand the impact of growth on the nature of flooding and quality of the water source.

Flood control on the Guadalupe River is also critical to the community. Of particular concern are the effects of high magnitude, low frequency flooding that damages the bedrock channel stream of the river. The effects of gravel deposits over time in the base flow channel chokes effective drainage at meanders and tributaries such as the point of confluence of the Guadalupe River and Cypress Creek. This increases the threat of flooding in the community and forces flood water to scour the natural riparian functions of the banks on both water ways.

Structural methods such as retention ponds or levees, and diversion channels along the Guadalupe River and the Cypress Creek, where feasible, would provide an opportunity to control rising water more effectively reducing damage to properties. Integrating retention and detention measures into developments, using floodplains for green space or parks that will hold and spread out water during floods could be beneficial. Such measures provide improved safety of all downstream communities, offer a chance to develop alternative water sources for residents of the area or enhance recreational options.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Guadalupe Region 11 Flood Planning Group through this letter and your volunteer service on the committee.

Sincerely,

Beth Bourland

Commissioner Durden,

3 August 2021

I am writing as an individual stakeholder and as an interested party of the Comfort Floodplain Coalition to voice my support for stream monitoring stations & early high water/flood warning systems in and around Comfort and upstream on the Cypress and Guadalupe stream/river systems. As you are aware, in our community Cypress Creek has no flow or height monitoring installations, resulting in deadly surprises, giving emergency services little to no warning to evacuate residents, close roads and save lives. Early warning and stream monitoring may be considered small, but it can be very effective at saving lives and providing important historical data to improve future decision making.

At the same time, I believe no flood mitigation project In the Guadalupe River Basin (GRB) should be disregarded because of cost. The various projects underway and the execution of a GRB Flood Master Plan will be critical to all entities in the GRB, especially Kendall County. Easier said than done because of the many jurisdictions involved.

For our community, I believe an early warning system is our closest "alligator to the boat" and the most cost-effective item of the many other projects, such as retention dams, that may take years or even decades to implement.

Sincerely,
Craig McDonald
409 Broadway
Comfort, TX

GARY A. LOUIE

P.O. Box 905 * 126 Idlewilde Blvd * Comfort, TX 78013
281-221-0132 * gary.a.louie@gmail.com

August 4, 2021

Doug Miller, Chair
Guadalupe Regional Flood Planning Group #11

cc: Kendall County Commissioner Don Durden

Chairman Miller and Planning Group,

Even though my wife and I do not live directly in the floodplain or floodway of the Guadalupe River or associated tributaries, we are quite concerned about the safety, security, and general economic impact of flooding along the watershed in Comfort.

I appreciate that issues of drainage, retention, and flooding can be complicated and expensive. The heavy rain events during the past few months have brought to light how quickly streams and tributaries can fill, causing dangerous situations for residents and travelers, especially at low water crossings.

My first suggestion for the Planning Group is to consider **funding of an Early Warning System** to protect lives. My understanding is that a system of this nature is affordable and can be implemented in at reasonable time frame.

Longer term, I hope that the Planning Group will **invest in flood control measures** that eventually will help control problems downstream. Thoughtful development of restrictors and retention devices both save lives and protect property, but have the added benefits of creating much needed water supplies as well as economic benefits for the region and state.

Your efforts to address flooding is much appreciated,



Gary A. Louie

Guadalupe Regional Planning Group
August 2, 2021

Dear Committee Members:

As property owners in Comfort, Texas, and more specifically, property owners affected by potential flooding of Cypress Creek, my wife and I encourage the committee to seriously support all efforts to mitigate flooding of this waterway. Our property is located at 228 Broadway Street.

Due to the history of flooding on Cypress Creek, structural mitigation projects are definitely the most advantageous actions to be taken to alleviate this problem. Such projects can potentially reduce the flooding itself, while also providing additional fresh water supply for the Comfort area. Such structural mitigation could go far to prevent loss of life and property damage.

Additionally, the installation of stream monitoring stations and early warning systems on Cypress Creek will provide emergency services time to warn and evacuate those residents living nearby. My wife's mother and step-father were evacuated on two separate occasions from this property when Cypress Creek flooded during night time hours.

Based upon historical events, the Cypress Creek area should be a prime candidate to receive funds to finance drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects along this waterway.

Sincerely,



William G. Mears



Kathryn B. Mears

don.durden@co.kendall.tx.us

From: Marcy Downey Dunn <marcydowney@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 7:57 AM
To: don.durden@co.kendall.tx.us
Subject: Flood planning meeting

Don, please push for a complete and safe flood resolution. I have lived on the Guadalupe river since I was 8 years old and have dealt with it's flooding for years, I'm 72 now. For the protection of our homes, animals, human life, our businesses...we must improve things!

Thanks you for all your hard work and dedication to our community needs.

Marcy and Neil Dunn

don.durden@co.kendall.tx.us

From: Steve Spence <saspence@hctc.net>
Sent: Sunday, July 25, 2021 9:02 AM
To: don.durden@co.kendall.tx.us
Subject: Ref: Flood protection in the Comfort area

Dear Commissioner Durden,

Many thanks for your continued efforts to promote flood mitigation and early warning systems in the elevations above Comfort. The recent establishment of the Guadalupe Regional Flood Planning Group give us a great opportunity to present our ideas and eventually get the appropriate funding to relieve property damage and loss of life as the result of flooding on the Guadalupe River and Cypress Creek.

I suggest the first order of business would be to install automated early warning systems which can be done at minimal expense then followed by structural solutions such as off channel reservoirs, aquifer storage and recharge wells, and aquifer recharge dams.

During heavy rains the Highway 27 bridge across Cypress Creek always gets blocked by dead trees creating a dam that backs up water into the nearby homes and businesses. An effort should be made to clear out the creek bed (with the consent of the landowners) for some distance, say a quarter of a mile, upstream of the bridge.

Thanks again for your help.

Steve Spence

From: ctrono@gmail.com
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2021 11:30 AM
To: don.durden@co.kendall.tx.us
Subject: Region 11 Flood Planning Group

Dear Commissioner Durden:

I am writing to urge the Regional Planning Group 11 to address the flooding issues, lack of early warning and need for surface water supply in the Comfort area, especially relating to Cypress Creek.

Specific items I urge the Group to consider include the following:

- To prevent loss of life and property, structural mitigation is the preferred type of project, especially when constructed in such a way that the structure not only reduces flooding, but also adds a new fresh water supply and potential recreational benefits.
- To prevent loss of life only, stream monitoring stations & early warning systems are essential and very cost effective. Large tributaries, such as the Cypress Creek, have no flow or height monitoring installations, resulting in deadly surprises, giving emergency services little to no warning to evacuate residents, close roads and save lives. These devices will also provide historical data to better understand flooding in Texas.
- Cost benefit calculations must take into account flood impact mitigation/protection in downstream communities all the way to the coast, as well as any benefits related to increased fresh water supply, quality of life and recreational implications. Reducing flooding in Comfort reduces flooding dangers in Sisterdale, Bergheim, Spring Branch, Canyon Lake, San Marcos, etc., and those benefits should be taken into account.
- Taking water supply into account is essential and will show that many structural flood mitigation projects are economically feasible due to the multiple positive effects of said structures. You cannot ignore the water supply benefits when areas such as Western Kendall County are forecast to suffer severe water shortages over the next 40 years, according to the 2010 Regional Water and Wastewater Study conducted by AECOM.
- No minimum project should be disregarded. Early warning and stream monitoring may be inexpensive and considered small, but it is very effective at saving lives and providing important historical data to improve decision making in the future.

Thank you for your time and consideration of these suggestions and issues.

Regards,

Carol & Ruben Trono
160 Antler Falls Run
Comfort Texas 78013

July 25th, 2021

*Maria C. Villanueva
618 Water St.
Comfort, Texas*

*Alfredo and Yolanda Arizola
612 Water St.
Comfort, Texas*

*To Regional Planning
Group 11.*

First, we would like to extend our appreciation with the volunteers, who in their efforts, are committed to the general management of problem solving, strategizing and striving for improvements dealing with pre and post flood consequences.

We are aware of the negative impacts with flooding in our community and have directly experienced the destruction of our homes on Water Street, Broadway and surrounding neighborhoods, which caused displacement and loss of property. The loss of loved ones, although indirectly, had a deeper impact that was traumatic for all of us in the years past. The experience of hesitation, fear and facing an indecisive state of mind during impending floods has been emotionally overwhelming for many residents. In the past and present we rely on communication from local news-worthy channels, community fire departments, networking and other resources of information focusing on current weather conditions, flood warnings, etc. Those of us living in the flood zone areas rely on the senses of past experiences and can determine a more rapid direction of thought, however, they must still follow direction from local emergency organizations and responders connected with the community.

In 2016, Comfort, Texas experienced a flash flood event that completely overwhelmed the community, without warning, no communication of evacuation within flood zone, no efforts in providing barriers, no visible signs of responders going door to door reaching out to evacuate, as in the past. We all know how devastating it is to succumb to these forces of nature beyond our control.

Regarding "who" should be responsible in providing flood warning systems is still uncertain to most of us. We truly believe that Education should be an important variable in allowing influences on all opinions, setting clear lines of responsibility, coordinating flood information that dispenses heightened awareness within the local flood zone community. Our families have been to Town meetings when topics are introduced for the purpose of communication or Q & A's involving community input. Comfort flood zone residents would have a better outcome and be more effective in understanding the strategies and preparing ahead with group meetings such as Comfort Floodplain Coalition provides. This group is a new avenue for our family and will certainly take the opportunity to be more proactive in the involvement and information it provides.

Our opinion...We need a more reliable flood warning system along with better flood preparedness measures so that people in this community can take action that further minimizes flood destruction of life and property. Too many years have passed in the attempts of minimizing flood impacts. Why are the creek beds and rivers still without sensors, devices and dams that could minimize the flow of flood waters and send out alerts? We understand the funding issues, budgets and constraints along with all the Regional and State involvement; however, the frustration lies within those who can make decisive action plans. We need greater clarity on responsibility for issuing effective flood warnings.

Thank you for the opportunity in hearing our sincere opinions and thoughts relating to Flood issues at hand.

Respectfully,


Yolanda Arizola


Alfredo Arizola


Maria C. Villanueva

August 1st, 2021

Emmanuel Flatten
417 Water St.
Comfort, Texas

To Regional Planning Group 11:

Thank you for your efforts to improve Texans' safety and security by addressing the significant flood dangers along the Guadalupe River and major tributaries. To achieve such ends, I believe stream monitoring, early warning and structural flood mitigation are necessary on the Cypress Creek, upstream of Comfort, Texas.

In 2016, a flash flood on the Cypress Creek surprised residents sleeping in their beds and emergency responders alike. With no warning, everyone was caught off guard, resulting in the death of a young woman. Her car was swept away less than thirty feet from my property line. A small memorial near my home reminds me of her family's loss daily. Had flow monitoring and early warning been in place, their tragic loss may have been avoided. Had structural mitigation been in place, the waters might never have reached homes in the first place.

I implore you to prioritize projects near the community of Comfort, and take the following into account:

Prevent loss of life by implementing stream monitoring stations & early warning systems, which are essential and very cost effective. Large tributaries, such as the Cypress Creek, have no flow or height monitoring installations, resulting in deadly surprises, giving emergency services little to no warning to evacuate residents, close roads and save lives. These devices will also provide data to better understand flooding in Texas.

Prevent loss of life and property by implementing structural flood mitigation. Cost benefit calculations should consider flood protection in downstream communities all the way to the coast, as well as any benefits related to increased fresh water supply, quality of life and recreation. Peak flow reduction in Comfort reduces flood dangers in Sisterdale, Bergheim, Spring Branch, Canyon Lake, etc.

Structural flood mitigation projects are economically feasible when the multiple positive effects are considered. The potential increase to water supply should not be ignored when areas such as Western Kendall County are forecast to suffer a 50% water supply shortfall by 2040, according to the 2010 Regional Water and Wastewater Study conducted by AECOM.

Thank you for the opportunity to make our voices heard and for working toward the betterment of Texan lives.

Sincerely,

Emmanuel Flatten

3 August 2021

To: Region 11 Flood Planning Group, Meeting 8/4/2021, Wimberly TX

Subject: Proposition 8 legislation, "The constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects."

My spouse and I are long-time residents of Kendall County, residing in Comfort near the confluence of the Guadalupe River and Cypress Creek. Our residence/property is on Cypress Creek (highway 27 bridge). I am also a 'grassroots' member of the Comfort Floodplain Coalition (CFC) which, since its inception in 2011, has been seeking ways to mitigate flooding in the greater Comfort area, which as you know is subject to significant flooding events resulting in property damage and most importantly, loss of lives.

To that end I offer some feedback/comments as requested by the organizers of this Region 11 Planning Group:

Structural mitigation, e.g. upstream dam(s), retention ponds (in Kerr County) is the preferred type of project, especially when constructed in such a way that the structure not only reduces flooding, but also adds a new fresh water supply and potential recreational benefits.

To prevent/minimize loss of life, stream monitoring stations & early warning systems are essential and very cost effective. Large tributaries, such as Cypress Creek, have no flow or height monitoring installations, resulting in deadly surprises, giving emergency services little to no warning to evacuate residents, close roads, etc. No minimum project should be disregarded. Early warning and stream monitoring may be relatively inexpensive, but it is very effective at saving lives.

As well, reducing flooding in Comfort reduces downstream flooding/dangers in Sisterdale, Bergheim, Spring Branch, Canyon Lake, San Marcos, etc.

These measurement systems/devices will also provide historical data to better understand flooding in Texas.

Upstream structural flood mitigation projects will concurrently enhance the water supply and benefits areas of Western Kendall County which are forecast to suffer severe water shortages over the next 40 years (according to the 2010 Regional Water and Wastewater Study conducted by AECOM).

I trust that the above comments are of considered value to the Region 11 Flood Planning group work efforts.

Sincerely,
Kurt Solis
4 Country Lane
Comfort, Texas 78013
(832) 489-6236

Amy Sinclair
Comfort, TX 78013

August 1, 2021

Regional Planning Group 11:

I appreciate your efforts to address flooding issues affecting communities along the Guadalupe River. Living on Cypress Creek for 17 years, I've experienced two significant floods and can attest to the need for reliable early warning systems in our area. Every time we have substantial rainfall, I suffer anxiety knowing there is no flood protection whatsoever, and I might receive no warning before the floodwaters enter my bedroom.

As I'm sure you're aware, Comfort's population has been growing faster than our local water supply can keep up with, which is another major concern in our area. Building a dual-purpose flood mitigation / water retention structure upstream of Comfort would benefit our community in multiple ways. I urge you to investigate every possible means to implement such a structure.

Thank you again for your attention to these important steps toward a safer future.

Sincerely,

Amy Sinclair