

TEXAS STATE & REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING



Starting in 2020, Texas stakeholders will have the opportunity to determine the best flood mitigation strategies for their region through a process called “flood planning.” Regional Flood Planning Groups (RFPG) will lead this effort, as prescribed by Senate Bill 8 enacted by the Texas Legislature in 2019.

Regional Flood Planning Groups correspond with 15 major Texas rivers and coastal basins delineated by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB). Each RFPG will be composed of 12 voting-members, 7 state agency non-voting members, and up to 2 non-voting member liaisons. RFPG membership is voluntary, and TWDB will designate the initial members of each region’s planning group based on nominations sent to the agency. Additional members may be added with a two-thirds vote once a RFPG is established.

A MOMENTOUS OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE TEXAS COMMUNITIES.

Participating in the regional flood planning process as a RFPG member is a momentous opportunity to serve Texas communities. As a RFPG member, designees will not only advocate for the flood protection needs of their region, but will also have an opportunity to amplify Texas as a national leader in flood mitigation, adaptation, and resilience.

RFPG members will collaborate with a suite of regional stakeholders and technical consultants to determine the most appropriate and effective flood protection strategies and projects for their region. Such strategies and projects include low impact development, non-structural solutions, comprehensive buyouts, and green infrastructure. The strategies and projects adopted by the RFPG will be incorporated into the 2024 State Flood Plan.



REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING MEMBER INTERESTS

Required voting member interests include:

- The public
- Counties
- Municipalities
- Industry
- Agricultural interests
- Environmental interests
- Small businesses
- Electric generating utilities
- River authorities
- Flood districts
- Water districts
- Water utilities

Non-voting member interests include:

- Texas Water Development Board
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas General Land Office
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Texas Department of Agriculture
- Texas Water Conservation Board
- Texas Division of Emergency Management
- River basin member liaisons
- Gulf Coast member liaisons

Each voting member will receive one vote in the planning group. Once initial members are established, each RFPG can add by two-thirds vote additional voting members, non-voting members, and subcommittees

Flood Planning Region Boundaries



WHAT TO EXPECT

RFPG members' main responsibilities include:

- Working with consultants to create a draft and final Regional Flood Plan (RFP) and technical memoranda based on the best available science, data, models, and flood mapping.
- Holding regular regional flood planning meetings that meet annually, at minimum.
- Holding at least one public meeting per year to gather suggestions and recommendations to inform their RFP.

RFPGs will be asked to undertake a variety of duties critical to the development of their Regional Flood Plan including:

- Identifying flood mitigation goals
- Identifying floodplain management goals
- Assessing region-wide flood risks
- Recommending flood management strategies and projects

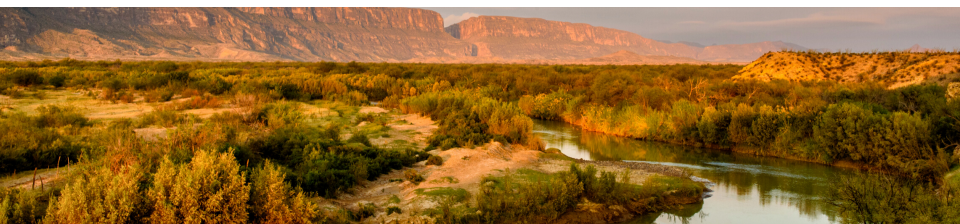
The flood planning process is likely modeled after Texas' Regional Water Supply Planning process. Based on this process, RFPG members likely can expect voluntary participation in half-day to day-long RFPG meetings as well as working with a variety of technical data.

WHAT DOES FLOOD PLANNING MEAN FOR GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS?

Active participation in the flood planning process can help ensure that green infrastructure and nature-based solutions are featured in the State Flood Plan as eligible and effective flood mitigation strategies and projects.

According to TWBD's Guidance Principles, Regional Flood Plans shall:

- Include strategies and projects that provide for a balance of structural and nonstructural projects including nature-based features
- Consider natural systems, beneficial floodplain functions, strategies beneficial to water quality, fish and wildlife, and multi-use opportunities such as green space, parks, and recreation.

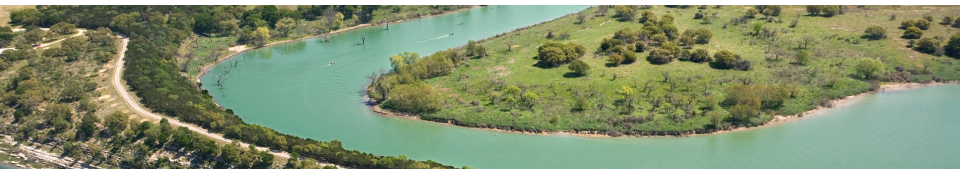


WHAT DOES FLOOD PLANNING MEAN FOR EQUITY?

Natural disasters do not adhere to jurisdictional boundaries, but history shows low-income and communities of color are often left behind in disaster planning, recovery, and mitigation. Active participation in the flood planning process is an opportunity to ensure the Texas State Flood Plan does not repeat past wrongs and sets standards for equitable funding and implementation of ALL flood protection strategies and projects.

According to TWBD's Guidance Principles, Regional Flood Plans shall:

- Be based on decision-making that is open to, understandable for, and accountable to the public with full dissemination of planning results.
- Be based on established terms of participation that are equitable and do not hinder participation.
- Consider the protection of vulnerable populations.



WOULD YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW MAKE A STRONG RFPG MEMBER?

To ensure that state and regional flood planning are both green and just, it is critical that we nominate RFPG members who represent the socio-cultural and economic fabric of their region, understand the value of nature-based solutions, and advocate for equity.

Submit RFPG nominations directly to TWDB at:
www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning

Are you interested in working with the Texas Living Waters Project to identify and sponsor nominees? Reach out to Teal Harrison (harrisont@nwf.org) or Danielle Goshen (dgoshen@galvbay.org) for more information.



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