



**Region 6 - San Jacinto Regional
Flood Planning Group
February 8, 2024
9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting**

ITEM 1

Call to Order

ITEM 2

Welcome and Roll Call

ITEM 3

Registered Public Comments on Agenda Items (Limit of 3 Minutes Per Person)

ITEM 4

Texas Water Development Board Update

ITEM 5

Approval of Meeting Minutes - December 14, 2023

ITEM 5

Approval of Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group
December 14, 2023 at 9:00 AM
Hybrid Meeting | Virtual Registration: [Link](#)
United Way: 50 Waugh Drive; Houston, TX 77007

Roll Call:

<u>Voting Member</u>	<u>Interest Category</u> (Executive Committee role)	<u>Present (x) /Absent () /</u> <u>Alternate Present (*)</u>
Timothy E. Buscha	Industries (Chair)	X (In-Person)
Alia Vinson	Water Districts (Vice Chair)	X (Virtual)
Erwin Burden	Counties (Secretary)	X (In-Person)
Augustus Campbell	Public Seat #1 (At-Large member)	
Matthew Barrett	River Authorities (At-Large member)	X (Virtual)
Elisa Macia Donovan	Agricultural Interests	
Connie Pothier	Small Business	X (In-Person)
Paul E. Lock	Electric Generating Utilities	
Hanadi Rifai	Environmental Interests	X (Virtual)
Stephen Costello	Municipalities	
Tina Petersen	Flood Districts	X (In-Person)
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	
Brian Maxwell	Coastal Communities	
Christina Quintero	Public Seat #2	X (Virtual)
Neil Gaynor	Upper Watershed	X (Virtual)

<u>Non-voting Member</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent () /</u> <u>Alternate Present (*)</u>
Hope Zubek	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	
Michelle Ellis	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Kristin Lambrecht	Texas Department of Agriculture	
Joel Clark	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Santiago Franco	Texas General Land Office	
Megan Ingram	Texas Water Development Board	X
Melinda Johnston	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Justin Bower	Houston-Galveston Area Council	
Ellie Alkhoury	Texas Department of Transportation	
Tom Heidt	Port Houston	
Michael Turco	Harris-Galveston Subsidence District	
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	
Sally Bakko	Gulf Coast Protection District	X
Lisa Mairs	U.S. Army Corps of Engineers	

<u>Liaisons from RFPG</u>	<u>Regional Flood Planning Group</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent () /</u> <u>Alternate Present (*)</u>
Todd Burrer	Trinity Region RFPG	
Stephen Costello	Neches Region RFPG	
Michael Turco	Lower Brazos RFPG	

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<u>Liaisons from Other Entities</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Mark Vogler	Lower Brazos RFPG	
Scott Harris	Trinity Region RFPG	
Liv Haselbach	Neches Region RFPG	
Brandon Wade	Region H Regional Water Planning Group	

<u>Technical Consultant Team Members</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Cory Stull	Freese and Nichols Inc.	X (In-Person)
Maggie Puckett	Freese and Nichols Inc.	X (Virtual)
Brian Edmondson	Freese and Nichols Inc.	
Andrew Moore	Halff, Associates	
Jacob Torres	Torres & Associates	
Evan Adrian	Torres & Associates	
Rachel Herr	Halff, Associates	
Mariah Najmuddin	Hollaway Environmental + Communications	

<u>Project Sponsor</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent()/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Lea Sanford	Harris County Engineering Department	X (In-Person)
Mike Garcia	Harris County Engineering Department	X (In-Person)
Timothy Williams	Harris County Engineering Department	X (In-Person)

Quorum: Yes

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: 9

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of 15: 8

Attendees:**

Remote:

Bob Kosar	Reem Zoun	Amanda Ashcroft
Larry Dunbar	Ian Hudson	Anita Machiavello
Mike Kelly	Vogler Mark	Ian Hudson
Jonathan St. Romain	Kristin Lambrecht	
Lisa McCracken Mairs	R. Fiederlein	

*****Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information on the WebEx meeting registration.***

All meeting materials were available for the public at: [Meetings - San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning \(sanjacintofloodplanning.org\)](https://sanjacintofloodplanning.org)

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 1: Call to Order

Tim Buscha called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 2: Welcome and Roll Call

Tim Williams took attendance, and a quorum was determined to be present.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 3: Registered Public Comments on Agenda Items

Mr. Buscha opened the floor for any registered public comments, and none were made.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 4: Texas Water Development Board

No updated comments. Megan Ingram stated that they were still reviewing the RFI responses for the Regional amended plan submission. A newsletter was sent out in November with information for the consultant and sponsors. TWDB announced that Mike Kelly will be the new regional flood planning manager. Mike Kelly with TWDB joined the meeting and introduced himself. Tina Petersen welcomed Mike to the team in support of his participation.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes - October 12, 2023

Matt Barrett commented that there were proofreading errors in the minutes provided at the meeting. Matt and Alia Vinson did not remember receiving minutes after the October meeting. Alia moved to table approval of these minutes and the issue was deferred until the next meeting. Mike Garcia will edit the October minutes and resend out to board members for review.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Announcement of New Alternate Members

Alia Vinson introduced Larry Goldberg as her new alternate voting member. Alia further introduced and explained that her previous alternate is now a voting member. Larry was reminded to take open meeting and public information training.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 7: Liaison Reports Pertaining to Other Region(s) Progress and Status and other Related Entities:

- a. Trinity Region – Todd Burrer was unavailable to provide an update.
- b. Neches Region – Stephen Costello was unavailable to provide an update.

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- c. Lower Brazos Region – Brandon Wade was unavailable to provide an update.
- d. Region H Water- Mike Turco (rep) was unavailable to provide an update.
- e. Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) – Sally Bakko had technical difficulties and couldn't speak.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 8: Update by the Project Sponsor Regarding the Application for Grant Funds and Contract with TWDB, on behalf of the RFPB

Mike Garcia reported that RRD is working on the grant application and plans to submit in late January.

Tim Buscha suggested SJRFPG reserve funds in allocation to do a future amendment at the end of Cycle 2 to have the opportunity to amend the regional plan. He requested to reserve these funds in the contract when it's put together. Tim opened the floor for questions/comments regarding this matter since the next meeting won't take place until the deadline for this has passed (January 2024).

AGENDA ITEM NO. 9: Discussion and Possible Action Related to Issuing the Request for Qualifications and Beginning the Procurement Process of a Technical Consultant for the 2028 Regional Flood Planning Cycle in Accordance with Applicable Federal, State, and Local Sponsor's Procurement Requirements.

Tim Buscha plans to put together the RFQ after the grant application is submitted and will probably have more discussion at February's meeting.

Sally Bakko was able to speak and give an update (GCPD report). Last week they went to Washington D.C in pursuit of funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. Greater Houston Port representatives and USACE reps attended as well. The funding request focuses on the Bolivar Road gate system project; developing acquisition strategy and a scoping delivery plan, beginning the sand sourcing work on the beach and dune system along Bolivar and West Galveston Island, and work on South Padre Island beach and dunes. This also includes ecosystem restoration projects; there are 4 projects that are in compliance and ready. They met with representatives from the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) along with Senator Cornyn, Representative Weber, and Representative Henry Cuellar's staff. They're awaiting word on the decision for this funding. They likely won't know until sometime after February or March 2024. They were able to submit several support letters. Sally stated that they have good momentum.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 10: Presentation and Update from the Technical Consultant on the Development of the Regional Flood Plan.

Maggie Puckett shared updates that were made by Freese and Nichols (FNI). Technical Consultant submitted the amended regional flood plan to TWDB in July. TWDB issued RFI's on the Amended RFP on November 7th. Responses and updated materials were submitted on November 20th. FNI made corrections and updates to inconsistencies that they located. Updates were made to the Technical Documents tab and Story Map on the website to reflect latest version of RFP.

TWDB published Flood Infrastructure Fund Intended Use Plan.

Notable Milestones:

- December 2023
 - RFPG meeting to authorize local sponsor to issue RFQ.
 - Final reimbursable date for 2023 RFP Technical Consultant is December 29th.
- February 2024
 - Deadline for local sponsor to apply for grant funds
 - Local sponsor to begin/continue contracting with TWDB
 - Procurement for Technical Consultant can occur in parallel to contracting with TWDB.
- September 2024
 - TWDB anticipates contracting across the state between sponsors and technical consultants to be executed, at the latest, by September 2024.

Tim Buscha asked who hosts SJRFPG website. Answer – Hollaway. He expressed concern about changing consultants and losing the website. Erwin Burden stated that the sponsor is addressing issue to prevent problems with possible transition.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Approval and Certification of Administrative Expenses Incurred by the Project Sponsor for the Development of Regional Flood Plan

Connie Pothier moved to approve the expenses. Tina Petersen seconded. No discussion. Approved.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Presentation by the Technical Consultant and Discussion of the TWDB released Draft FY2024-2025 FIF Intended Use Plan (IUP)

Cory Stull with FNI gave a brief overview. He emphasized that the end goal was to maximize flooding eligibility that we can bring from the state to our region. Cory then brought in Maggie Puckett to discuss public comments on the draft FIF Intended Use Plan (IUP).

Maggie reminded everyone that comments are due to TWDB on January 1, 2024, that they should be submitted to TWDB's email (FIF@twdb.texas.gov), and the documents are available on TWDB's website. She provided a review of the contents of the draft IUP plan.

Maggie also reviewed the Anticipated FIF Application Process. She then opened the floor for discussion with a stated objective of determining how Region 6 would like to coordinate comments.

Megan Ingram stated that her team anticipates the Abridged application to be posted in the next couple of weeks and expects a 3-month deadline after it's posted.

Tim Buscha inquired about the timing of putting out the information so that someone can do an Abridged application at the same time comments are being requested for the IUP.

Megan expressed optimism about them not overlapping due to the 3- month period to work on the applications.

Tim encouraged people to read the IUP and provide comments. He stated that SJRFPG will be submitting a letter and gave deadlines to the board to submit their feedback. Comments need to be provided to Cory by Wednesday, so Tim can have it by Friday December 22, 2023.

Tina Petersen asked for the comments that were submitted in the previous cycle. Corey will send a two-page letter focused on scoring to Mike so that he can send it out to the board.

Alia Vinson stated that Region 6 should comment. She further commented on the challenges of funding when using loans vs. grants and on the language that is used in the FIF IUP. Items in FIF IUP were not in original legislation, creating additional limitations not required by legislation. Two areas she'd like Region 6 to address again are benefits cost ratio (BCR) and memorandum of understanding (MOU). She believes that guidelines should be increased around the alternative that allows you to submit evidence of notification to the non-responsive political subdivisions when completing the application.

Matt Barrett inquired if the group needed to bless the contents of the letter before sending.

Tim stated there was no time for a formal meeting due to short deadline. Comments can be sent individually, not necessarily as a group.

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Tina agrees with comments from Alia and Matt about funding limits.
She stated that HCFCD is digging through the IUP and will provide comments.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Presentation of 2023 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines

- a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones
- b. Next RFPG Planning Meeting to be held on Feb 8, 2024

Per Tim Buscha, Region 6 will have an executive meeting in January to discuss the status of the grant application and the RFQ process in preparation for the February 8, 2024 public meeting.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 14: Update and Discussion Pertaining to In-Person RFPG Meeting Location(s)

Tim Buscha stated his support for United Way as a meeting location and stated his appreciation to staff for making the meeting work.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 15: Discussion Regarding Necessary Changes or Updates to the SJRFPG By-Laws

Tim Buscha – no changes.

Alia Vinson– no changes.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 16: Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting

There will be continued discussion about the grant application, RFQ, and comments that were submitted for the FIF IUP.

AGENDA ITEM NO. 17: Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person

There were no public comments. There were no hands raised.

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AGENDA ITEM NO. 18: Adjournment

Tim Buscha Adjourned the meeting at 10:03 am.

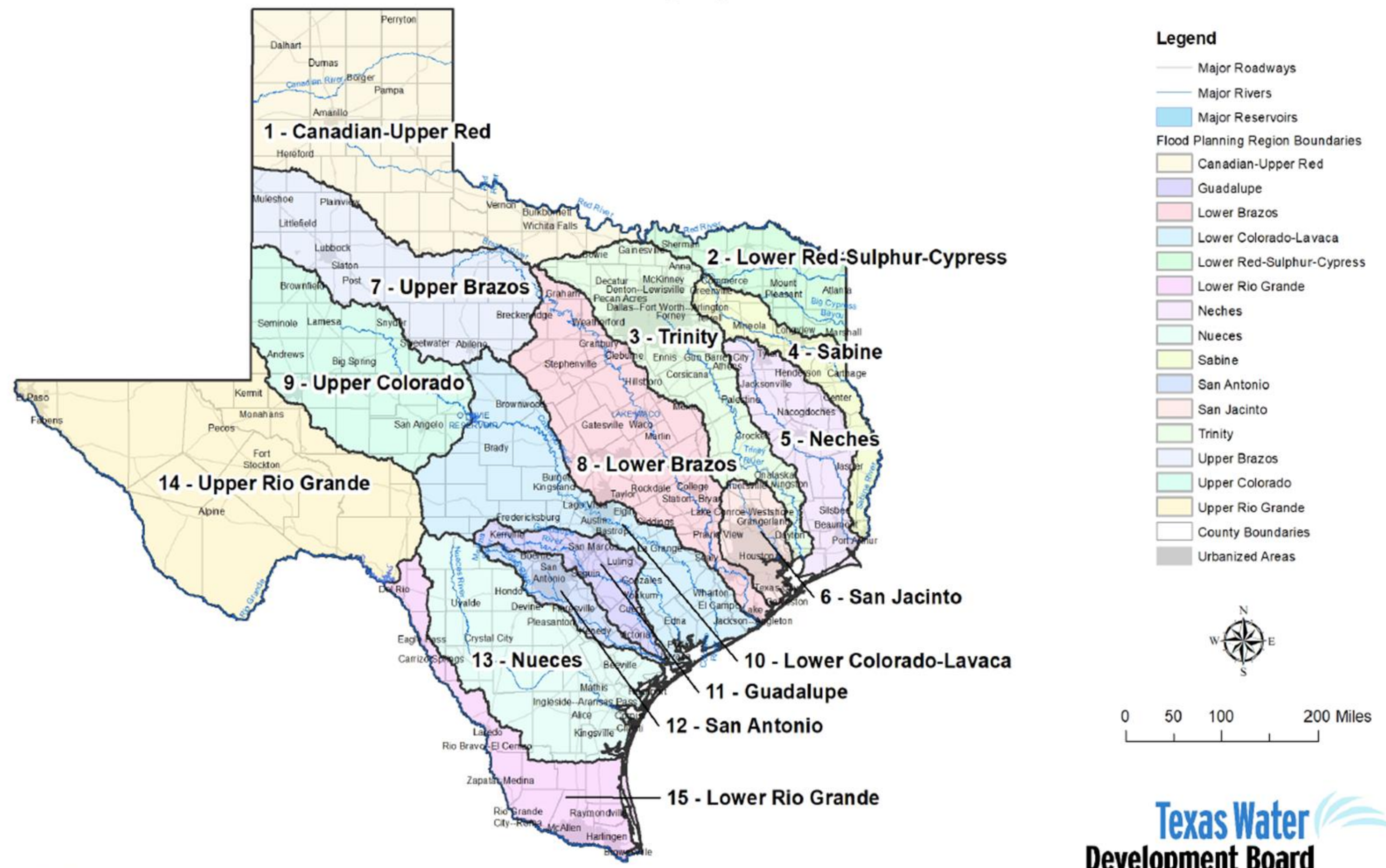
Erwin Burden, Secretary

Tim Buscha, Chair

ITEM 6

Announcement of New Alternate Members and New Non-Voting Members

Flood Planning Region Boundaries



as of 4/9/20

Texas Water
Development Board

ITEM 7

**Liaison Reports Pertaining to Other Region(s)
Progress and Status and other Related Entities:**

- a. Trinity Region**
- b. Neches Region**
- c. Lower Brazos Region**
- d. Region H Water**
- e. Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD)**

ITEM 8

Officer Elections – Discussion, possible action, and consideration of nominations to the RFPG Executive Committee, including members At-Large

ITEM 9

Presentation from the Texas A&M Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas Sharing Info and Seeking Partnerships

DHS Coastal Resilience Center



Houston-Galveston Flood Risk Case Study

Meri Davlasheridze, PhD

Texas A&M University at Galveston

Institute of Disaster Resilient Texas

Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group Meeting

February 8, 2024

Research Team

Texas A&M University at Galveston

Institute of Disaster Resilient Texas (IDRT)

Houston-Galveston Flood Risk Case Study

- Meri Davlasheridze, PhD (PI, IDRT Faculty Fellow, Hazard Economist)
- Ashley Ross, PhD (co-PI, IDRT Faculty Fellow, Political Science & Resilience)

Project Goal

The purpose of this case study is to apply Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework (IRPF) to regional flood planning efforts in the Houston-Galveston Area of Texas.

Objective

Collaborate with regional flood planning groups in the application of the IRPF to:

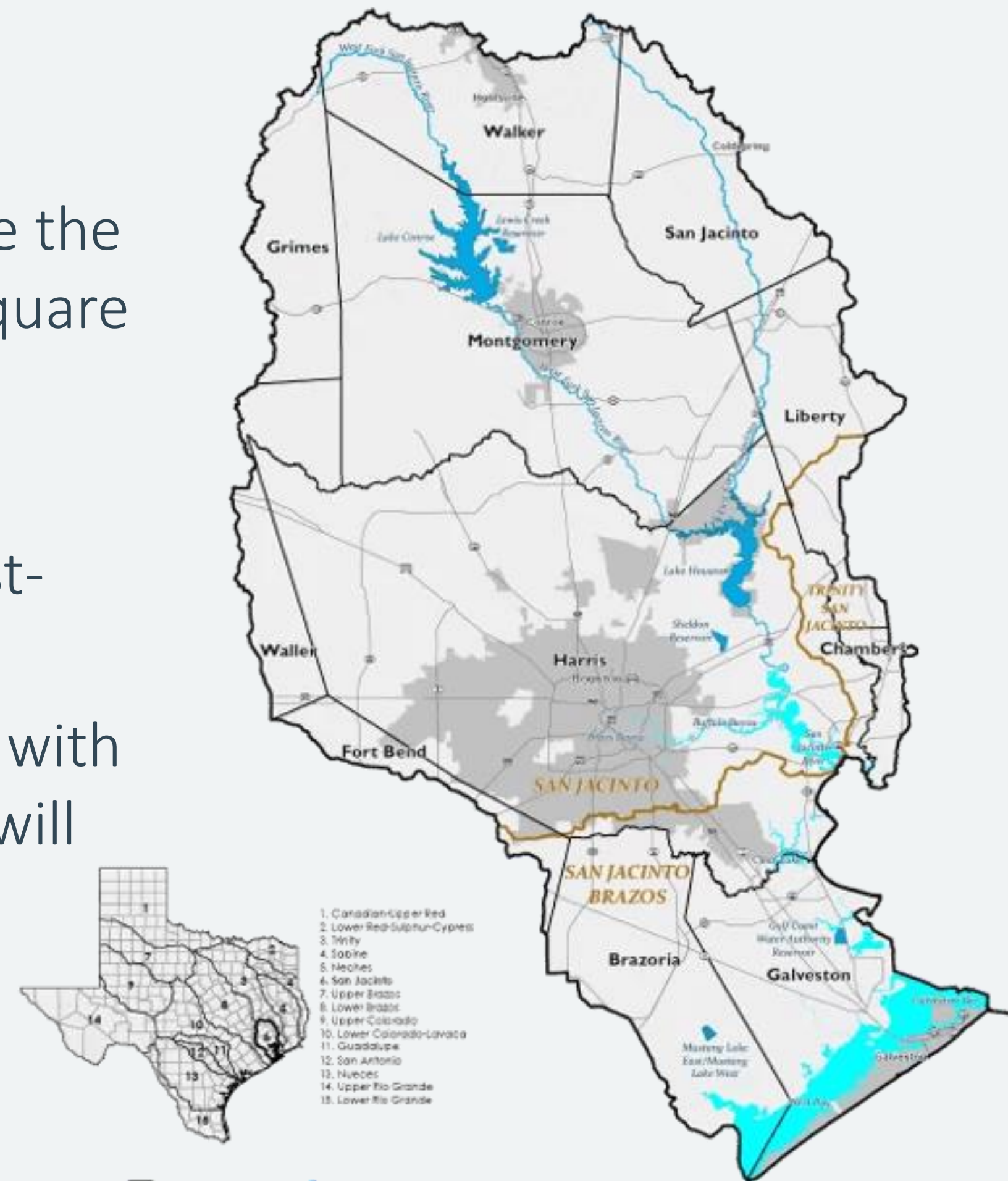
- Improve the knowledge of at-risk critical infrastructure and the interdependencies between them in the HGA;
- Expand flood risk analysis of critical infrastructure to address service disruptions of facilities depended upon by historically excluded and underserved communities in the HGA;
- Make innovations in flood mitigation to support more equitable outcomes (e.g., reduce the prevalence of flooding in socially vulnerable neighborhoods, reduce the time that public services/critical facilities are disrupted/inaccessible) in the region.

Study Area

The Region 6 RFPG: the San Jacinto River basin to include the HGA and parts of surrounding counties, totaling 5,000 square miles that is home to 6.3 million people.

The 2019 Texas Legislature passed a bill to create the first-ever state flood planning process.

- 15 Regional Flood Planning Groups (RFPG) tasked with developing a flood plan for their jurisdiction that will be integrated to create a statewide flood plan.



Key Deliverables

- A refined inventory of critical facilities and systems in the HGA
- A set of actions to improve equitable flood risk reduction in the HGA
- A refined portion of the flood plan that addresses critical infrastructure and systems in the HGA.

Infrastructure Resilience Planning Framework (IRPF)

IRPF is the framework to address critical infrastructure security and resilience through planning



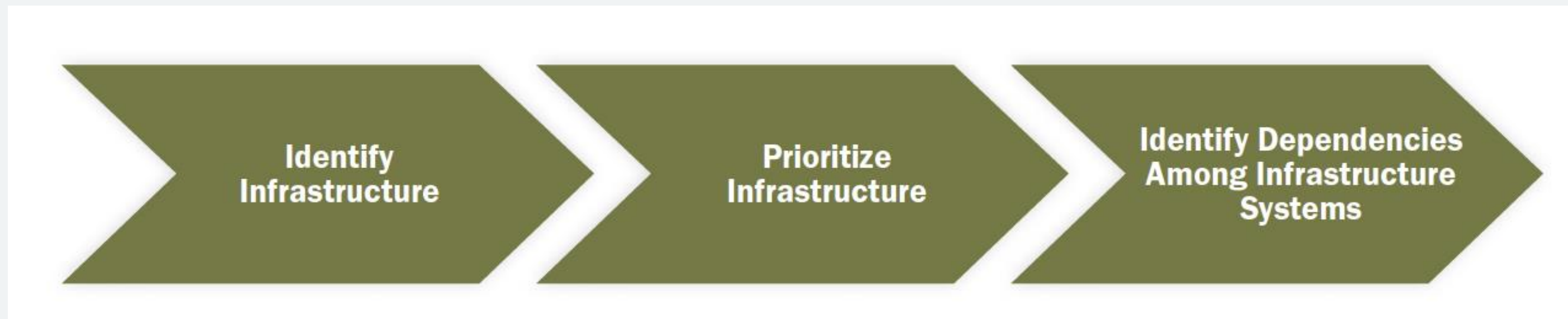
Source: (FEMA, 2023)

Base Year

1. Lay foundation



2. Critical Infrastructure Identification



Source: (FEMA, 2023)

Stakeholders and End-users

- 1) **Core stakeholders*** –responsible for flood planning in the region and directly benefit from use of the IRPF to improve the treatment of critical infrastructure in planning efforts
- 2) **Secondary stakeholders** – those who may offer information important for the IRPF process including those responsible for critical infrastructure systems as well as those who contribute to understanding flooding in the HGA
- 3) **Tertiary stakeholders** – those who have planning or regulatory authority that may influence the IRPF process.

*Core stakeholders are the direct end-users of this project



Stakeholders: Planning Process

Stakeholder	Role	Organization
CORE: Collaborative Planning Group	Champion	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Region 6 Regional Flood Planning Group (or another regional group in this list)
	Collaborate in planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Houston-Galveston Area Council, Regional Flood Management Committee• Houston Urban Area Security Initiative, Risk Management and Critical Infrastructure Protection Committee• Harris County Flood Control District• Galveston County Office of Emergency Management• City of Houston, Mayor's Office of Public Safety and Homeland Security• City of Galveston, Office of Emergency Management
SECONDARY	Support with information	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Energy service providers (Centerpoint, TXU, Reliant)• Communication service providers (Verizon, AT&T, Xfinity)• Houston Public Works, Stormwater Operations• Houston Public Works, Wastewater Operations• City of Houston, Public Works• City of Galveston, Public Works• InfraGard Houston, Telecommunications Cross-Sector Council• Institute for a Disaster Resilient Texas• Bay Area Houston Economic Council
TERTIARY	Support with agency authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Texas Water Development Board• Texas General Land Office• Texas Department of Transportation

Stakeholders: Planning Process

- Collaborative Planning Group (CPG)
 - Primary Stakeholders
- Secondary and tertiary stakeholders will be invited to engage intermittently throughout the planning process.

Stakeholders: Advising

Community Advisory Board (CAB) → Guide towards equitable outcomes

- 2-1-1 Texas, Texas Health and Human Services Commission
- Community Family Centers
- T.E.J.A.S. (Texas Environmental Justice Advocacy Services)
- Meals on Wheels for Greater Houston and Galveston County, Interfaith Ministries for Greater Houston
- 4B Disaster Response Network

Activities: Base Year

Activity	Completion Date
<p>Activity 1: Establish the collaborative network.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Solidify a relationship with the Project Champion (PC) organization■ With the PC, review the IRPF process, identify goals for the application of the IRFP to flood planning, refine the stakeholder list, and identify information needs.■ Invite core stakeholders to form the Collaborative Planning Group (CPG), contact secondary and tertiary stakeholders■ Invite groups working to promote the well-being of racial/ethnic minority communities and low-income families to form the Community Advisory Board (CAB).	May 1, 2024

Activities: Base Year

Activity	Completion Date
<p>Activity 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Facilitate knowledge sharing among stakeholders.<ul style="list-style-type: none">■ One workshop will be held with the PC and CPG to compile a list of available data and information among partners related to flood planning and critical infrastructure.■ Two workshops will be held with the PC, CPG, and secondary/tertiary stakeholders to identify information related to critical infrastructure and to explore infrastructure interdependencies.■ The CAB participate in these workshops to guide information needs related to critical facilities that racial/ethnic minorities and low-income groups rely upon.	July of 2024

Activities: Base Year

Activity	Completion Date
<p>Activity 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">■ Develop an inventory of critical infrastructure based on the data already held by the PC and CPG and additional information gathered from secondary and tertiary stakeholder partners.■ Guided by the CAB, infrastructure crucial for the health and well-being of minority and low-income communities will be noted in the inventory.■ Interdependencies among the critical infrastructure will also be represented in the inventory.	Sept 15, 2024

Activities: Years 1&2

- Year 1: Risk assessment (step 3 in IRPF)
 - Identify approaches to flood risk assessment
 - Create a geospatial database of critical infrastructure for the region.
 - Estimate flood risk for the region.
 - Identify hot spots of flood risk to critical infrastructure.

- Year 2: Develop Actions & Implement them (Steps 4 & 5 in IRPF)
 - Develop flood mitigation actions to reduce flood risk to critical infrastructure.
 - Develop an implementation and evaluation plan.
 - Integrate the flood risk assessment and implementation plan into the regional flood plan

Potential Partnership and Collaborators

- Project Champion (PC) organization
 - The Region 6 Regional Flood Planning Group (or any regional stakeholder)
 - With the PC, review the IRPF process, identify goals for the application of the IRFP to flood planning, refine the stakeholder list, and identify information needs.
- Stakeholders that compromise Region 6's Executive, technical and outreach teams (primary, secondary, and tertiary)
 - Invite core stakeholders to form the Community Planning Group (CPG)
- Form community advisory board (CAB) to guide the equitable planning

Potential Partnership and Collaborators

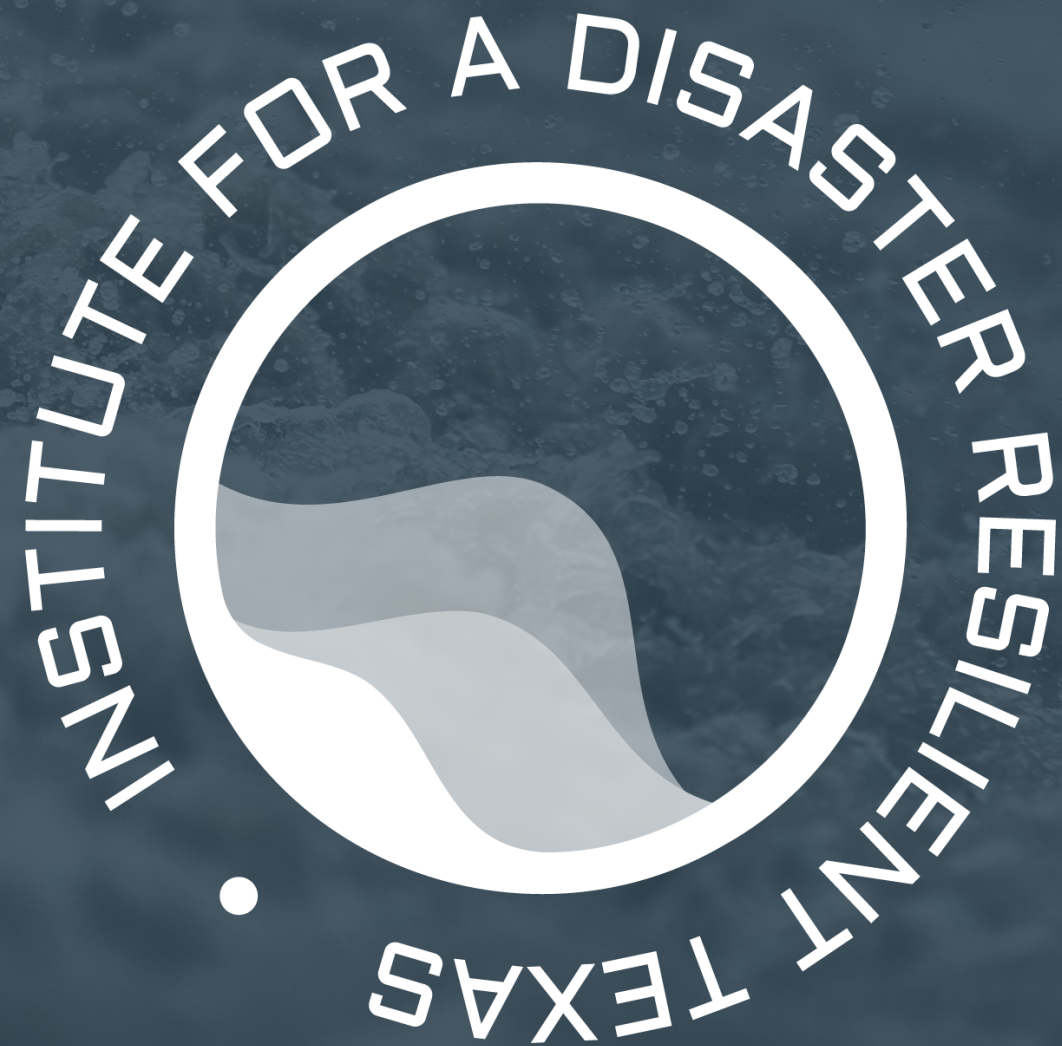
- Current focus on Critical Infrastructure (CI) encompass CISA's 16 CI sectors
 - Police and fire stations
 - Hospitals
 - Shelters
 - Schools
 - Water and wastewater treatment plan
 - Correctional facilities
 - Aviation facilities
 - Waste disposal facilities
 - Power generation
 - Chemical manufacturing and processing facilities
 - Natural gas pipelines & electric power transmission lines (excluded from risk assessment; considered as floodproof)

Potential Partnership and Collaborators

- Expand the focus through the partnership:
 - To understanding interdependencies of at-risk critical infrastructure
 - Expand flood risk incorporate these interdependencies for underserved communities

CISA's Critical Infrastructure sectors

- Chemical Sector
- Commercial facilities sector
- Communications sector
- Critical Manufacturing sector
- Dams sector
- Defense Industrial base sector
- Emergency services sector
- Energy sector
- Financial Services sector
- Food and agriculture sector
- Government facilities sector
- Healthcare and public health sector
- Information technology sector
- Nuclear reactors, materials and waste sector
- Transportation systems sector
- Water and wastewater sector



THANK YOU

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ITEM 10

Update by the Project Sponsor regarding the application for grant funds and contract with TWDB, on behalf of the RFPG

ITEM 11

Discussion and possible action related to issuing the Request for Qualifications for and beginning the procurement process of the Technical Consultant for the 2028 Regional Flood Planning Cycle in accordance with applicable federal, state and the local sponsor's procurement requirements

ITEM 12

Approval and Certification of Administrative Expenses Incurred by The Project Sponsor for The Development of Regional Flood Plan

ITEM 13

Presentation of 2023 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines:

- a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones
- b. Next RFPG Planning Meeting to be held on April 2024

ITEM 14

Update and Discussion Pertaining to In-Person RFPG Meeting Location(s)

ITEM 15

Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting

ITEM 16

Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person

ITEM 17

Adjournment