



SAN JACINTO REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP

**REGION 6**

**Region 6 - San Jacinto Regional  
Flood Planning Group  
Planning Meeting  
October 10, 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



# ITEM 5

# Approval of Meeting Minutes

August Meeting Minutes  
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group

August 8, 2024, at 9:00 AM

Virtual Meeting | [Link](#)

East Aldine District: 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr., Houston, TX 77039

Roll Call:

Voting Member	Interest Category (Executive Committee role)	Present (x)/Absent ( )/ Alternate Present (*)
Timothy E. Buscha	Industries (Chair)	x
Alia Vinson	Water Districts (Vice Chair)	*(Larry Goldberg)
Erwin Burden	Counties (Secretary)	x
Augustus Campbell	Public #1 (At-Large member)	x
Matthew Barrett	River Authorities (At-Large member)	x
Elisa Macia Donovan	Agricultural Interests	x
Connie Pothier	Small Business	x
Paul E. Lock	Electric Generating Utilities	
Hanadi Rifai	Environmental Interests	x
Vacant	Municipalities	
Tina Petersen	Flood Districts	*(Gary Bezemek)
Todd Burrer	Water Utilities	*(Mark Yentzen)
Brian Maxwell	Coastal Communities	*(Bob Kosar)
Christina Quintero	Public #2	
Imelda Diaz	Upper Watershed	x

Non-voting Member	Agency	Present(x)/Absent ( )/ Alternate Present (*)
Hope Zubek	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	
Michelle Ellis	Texas Division of Emergency Management	
Kristin Lambrecht	Texas Department of Agriculture	x
Joel Clark	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	
Santiago Franco	Texas General Land Office	
Cynthia Nolasco	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	



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Michael Turco	Harris-Galveston Subsidence District   Region H	x
Alisa Max	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 (/)/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Todd Burrer	Trinity Region RFPG	
Mark Vogler	Lower Brazos RFPG	x

<u>Liaisons from Other Entities</u>	<u>Entity</u>	<u>Present(x)/Absent (/)/ Alternate Present (*)</u>
Liv Haselbach	Neches Region RFPG	
Scott Harris	Trinity Region RFPG	

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

**Quorum:**

Number of voting members or alternates that were present: (15) total, (12) at time of quorum

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

**Attendees\*\*:** Remote:

Bill Callegari	Nicholas Collins	
Constance Pothier	R Fiederlein	
Harvey	Rachel Herr	
Jonathan Spellman	Tina Petersen	
Kim, Johnny		
Maggie Puckett		

\*\*Meeting attendee names were gathered from the WebEx meeting platform.



# ITEM 5

# Approval of Meeting Minutes



Meeting Minutes  
Region 6 San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group  
August 8, 2024, at 9:00 AM  
Virtual Meeting | [Link](#)  
East Aldine District: 2909 East Aldine Amphitheatre Dr., Houston, TX 77039

**MEETING START TIME: 9:02**

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 1:** Call to Order

Discussion/Action Items:

Tim Buscha called the meeting to order.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 2:** Welcome and Roll Call

Tim Williams called the roll. A quorum was achieved.

Discussion/Action Items:

Tim Buscha and Alia Vinson attended the North Houston Association Awards ceremony. Tim commended Region 6 Flood Planning Group for receiving NHA Environmental Impact Award, presented by Harris County Precinct 3 Commissioner Tom Ramsey. Tim Buscha will keep possession of award on behalf of the Region 6 Flood Planning Group, to no objection. Timothy Williams will photograph award and correspond to group with photo.

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

(Limit of 3 Minutes Per Person)

Discussion/Action Items:

There were no registered formal public comments.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 4:** Texas Water Development Board Update

Discussion/Action Items: Cynthia Nolasco

- RFP status update reports as follows. On July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024 communication updates sent out to all regions and planning group sponsors on current review status for payment requests. Anticipating releasing retainage prior to end of August, 2024.



## ITEM 5

# Approval of Meeting Minutes

- New guidance for amending regional flood plans. In May of 2024, TWDB released additional guidance for amendment process. TWDB has updated the policy regarding the use of 2028 Cycle-2 grant funds to process, review and approve up to two amendments to the 2023 approved Regional Flood Plans during the current RFP cycle. This is reflected in revised Exhibit A work scope for Technical Consultants and also in Cycle-2 grant contracts.
- TWDB will present the State Flood Plan to the State Board, on August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

### AGENDA ITEM NO. 5: Approval of Meeting Minutes

#### Discussion/Action Items:

- Meeting minutes from June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting were circulated in the meeting materials for this meeting.
- **Sally Bakko** – Sally Bakko commends Timothy Williams for his assistance in getting her comments, made via meeting chat during the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024 meeting and not originally included in the June 13<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes, added to revised meeting minutes for June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024.
- Motion of approval to June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2024, meeting minutes, considering addition of Sally Bakko's comments, made by Erwin Burden with second provided by Larry Goldberg. Carried, 9:20am.

### AGENDA ITEM NO. 6: Liaison Reports Pertaining to Other Region(s) Progress and Status and other Related Entities.

#### Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Trinity Region – No report.
- b. Neches Region – Report sent to Tim Bucha via email. Technical consultant selection in process.
- c. Lower Brazos Region – Technical consultant selection process.
- d. Region H Water – **Michael Turco**, Meeting held on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024, they are continuing to work on the State Water Plan.



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e. Gulf Coast Protection District (GCPD) – **Sally Bakko**, GCPD will host a meeting on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Meeting will be streamed on the GCPD webpage. The US Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) has included \$500,000.00 for preconstruction engineering and design in their 2024 work plan for Coastal Texas Project. Helps finalize design plans and specifications and assists in designating a start destination for this project. Congressman Randy Weber submitted a community project funding request to House Appropriations Committee. Gulf Coast Protection District has a \$5,000,000.00 community project funding request that was included in the Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill for FY25, that has not passed the House floor vote. USACE headquarters is currently reviewing the final design agreement between them and GCPD and GCPD is expecting approval for the Galveston District to proceed in executing this agreement.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 7:** Update by the Project Sponsor regarding the application for grant funds, RFPG's contract with TWDB and status of the Request for Qualifications the Technical Consultant for the 2028 Regional Flood Planning Cycle

Discussion/Action Items:

**Erwin Burden** – Grant agreement with TWDB was signed by Dr. Milton Rahman and the item appeared on Commissioner's Court agenda for July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Agreement was returned to the TWDB and anticipated to be in execution currently. RFQ for Technical consultant was issued and a single applicant returned. Scoring Committee has met and reviewed applicant Freese and Nichols. Per Erwin Burden, anticipating award and due process of Commissioner's Court for Freese and Nichols.

**Tim Buscha** – Made recommendation of support from SJRFPG to Dr. Milton Rahman that the submittal be made through Harris County Purchasing for Freese and Nichols to be selected as the Technical Consultant. Larry Goldberg noted support for this recommendation. Motion was made by Larry Goldberg with Second by Erwin Burden. Motion carried. Letter of support will be sent from SJRFPG.

It was noted that the FNI team of subconsultants from the 2023 planning cycle will remain the same for the 2028 planning cycle.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 8:** General discussion and membership thoughts on the Draft 2024 State Flood

Plan issued in May by TWDB and plan for formal comments from the planning group.

Discussion/Action Item:



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**Cynthia Nolasco** – All public comments have been reviewed through in-person and virtual meetings during the public comment period. All public comments will be included in 2024 State Flood Plan.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 9:** Discussion about future amendments to the regional flood plan to add a new FMX or modify an existing FMX.

Discussion/Action Items:

Tim Buscha stated that this item was also a point of discussion at the June SJRFPG planning meeting. Prior to the June meeting, the amendment process was not a funded opportunity through the Regional Flood Planning Groups. Flood plan guidance has been amended to allow for process of amendments to the 2023 Flood Plan during the 2028 Flood Planning cycle.

Tim Buscha opened discussion about how to implement the two future amendments allowed by TWDB and the need to formalize our process. Tim stated his support for SJRFPG to offer workshops on how to recommend projects/amend accepted projects.

Sponsor commented that they have had inquiries from parties interested in adding projects to the 2023 Flood Plan; Sponsor has notified interested parties to watch for more information on how to amend.

**AGENDA ITEM NO. 10:** Presentation of 2024 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines:

Discussion/Action Items:

- a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones

TWDB contract with Sponsor

Selection of Tech consultant process is underway; hope to be complete by next meeting.

- b. Next RFPG Planning Meeting to be held October 10, 2024



# ITEM 5

# Approval of Meeting Minutes

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 11: Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting**

### Discussion/Action Items:

- Action to fill Steve Costello municipalities position. No applications were received. Sponsor has republicized the opening; it is still open. We have received 2 applications at present from the readvertisement. After the position closes, RFPG will have an executive committee meeting to recommend selection at the October meeting.
- October meeting will be at East Aldine District facility. Tim Buscha expressed appreciation for the facilities and staff, encouraging members to attend a meeting in person.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 12: Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person**

### Discussion/Action Items:

No public comments were received.

## **AGENDA ITEM NO. 13: Adjournment Discussion/Action Items: N/A**

**MEETING END TIME 9:33 am.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Erwin Burden, Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Tim Buscha, Chair



## **ITEM 6**

**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 7

## Executive Committee's Recommendation for the Vacant Municipalities Board Position



## ITEM 8

**Update by the Project Sponsor regarding the SJRFPG's contract with TWDB and status of the contract with the Technical Consultant contract for the 2028 Regional Flood Planning Cycle.**



## ITEM 9

Discussion about future amendments to the regional flood plan to add a new FMX or modify an existing FMX.



# Agenda Item #9



**SAN JACINTO REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING GROUP**

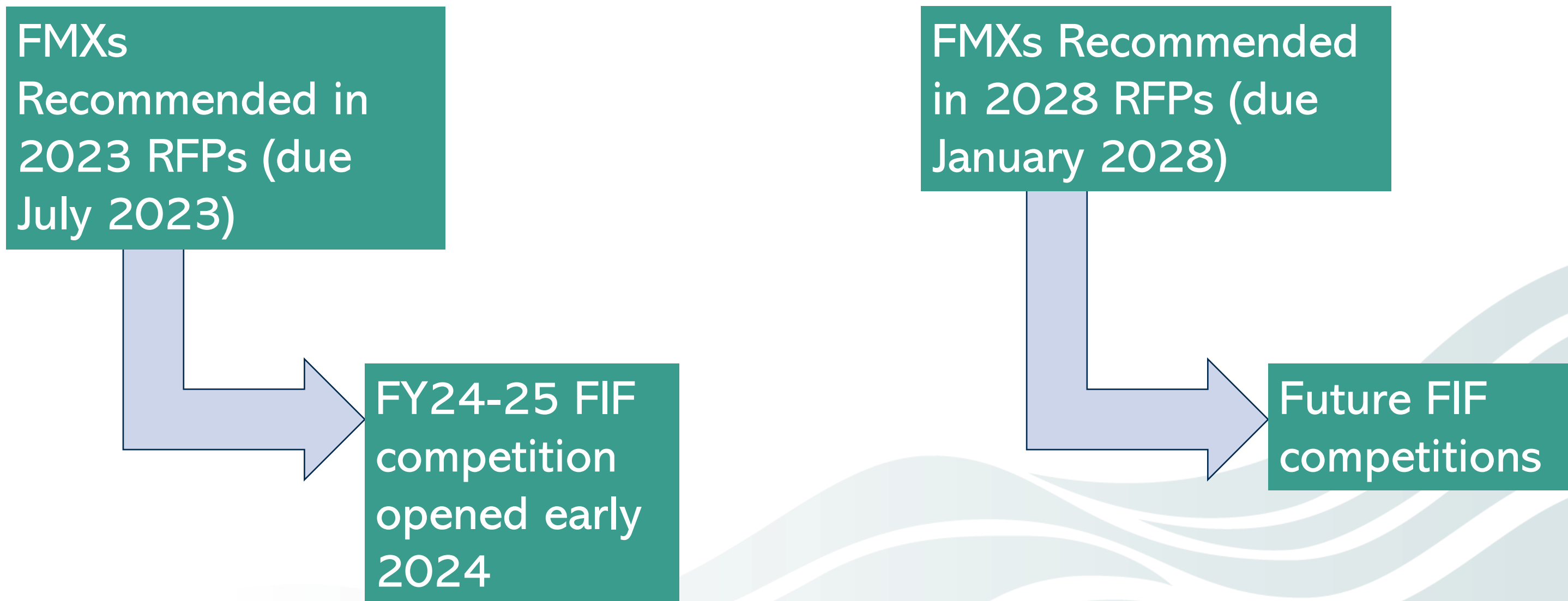
**REGION 6**

October 10, 2024



# RFPs and FIF Funding

Recommendation of a Flood Risk Reduction Solutions within the Regional Flood Plan/State Flood Plan defines Eligibility for funding assistance through the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF).





# RFPs and FIF Funding

Recommendation of a Flood Risk Reduction Solution defines Eligibility for funding assistance through the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF).

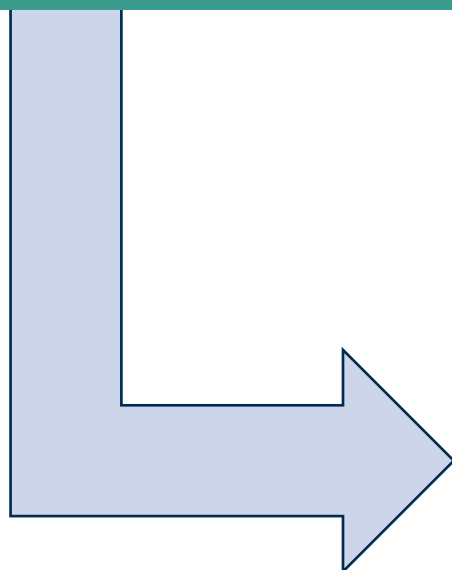




# RFPs and FIF Funding

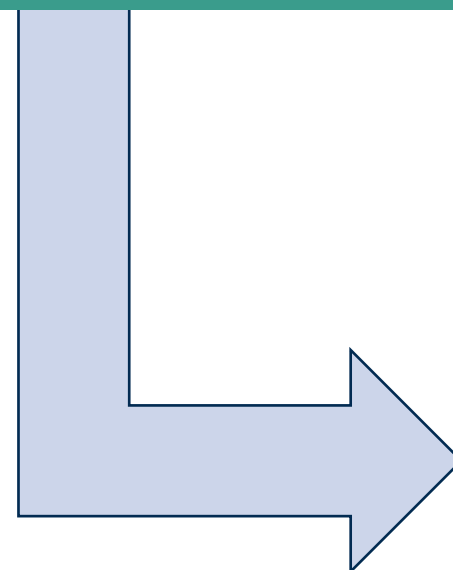
Recommendation of a Flood Risk Reduction Solution defines Eligibility for funding assistance through the Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF).

FMXs Recommended in 2023 RFPs (due July 2023)



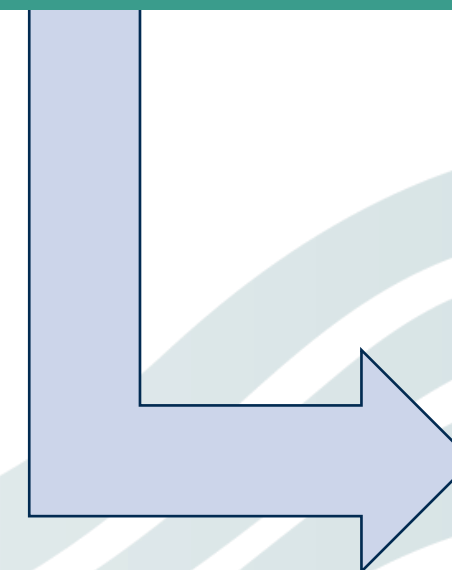
FY24-25 FIF competition opened early 2024

FMXs Recommended in Amended 2023 RFPs (due to TWDB April 1, 2025)

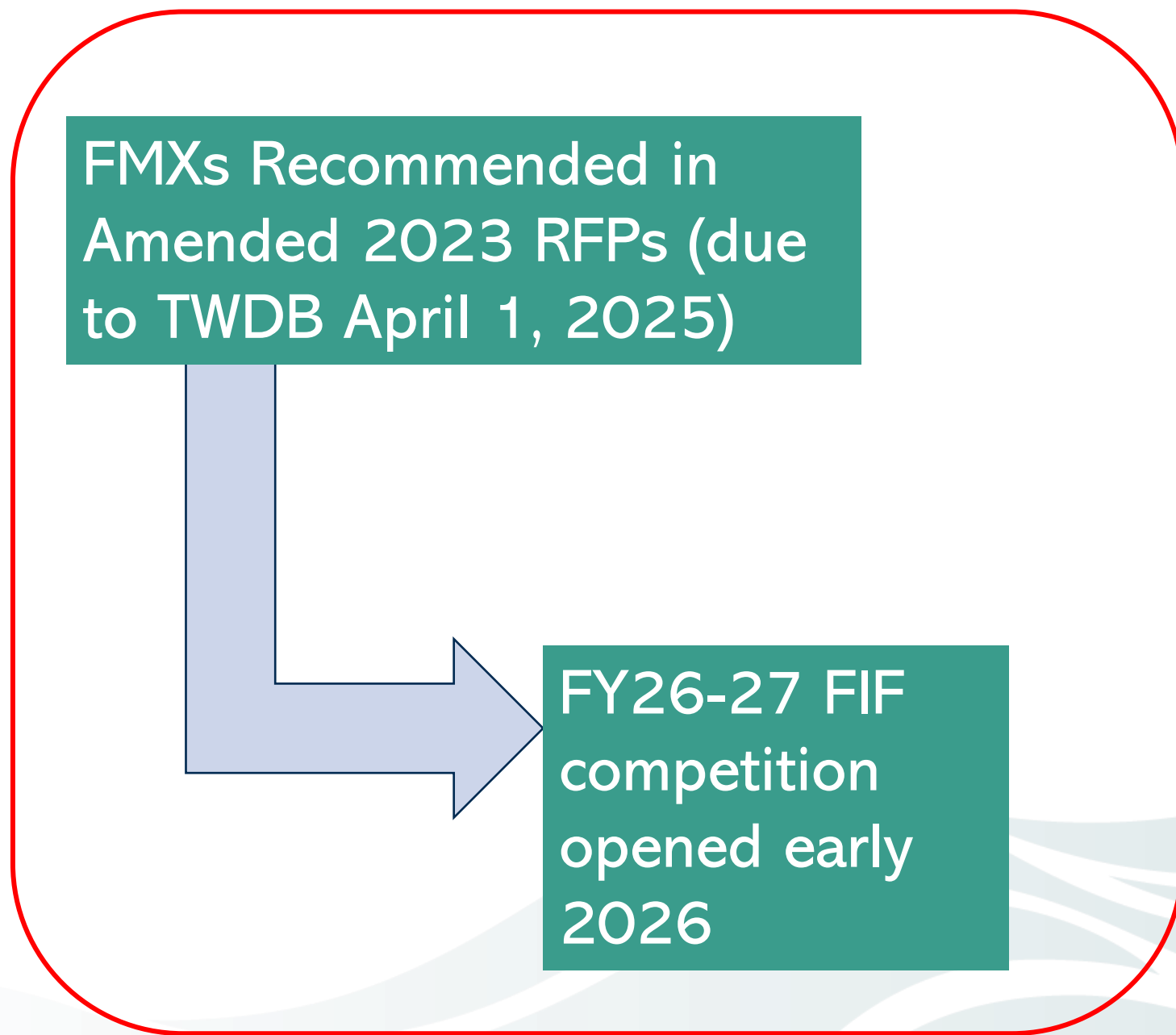


FY26-27 FIF competition opened early 2026

FMXs Recommended in 2028 RFPs (due January 2028)



Future FIF competitions





# Key Task 10 Scope Change

“At the discretion of the RFPG, the grant funding may be used to amend the Board-approved, most recent 2023 amended regional flood plan.”

- Initiated by the RFPG or an entity (Political Subdivision)
- For changed conditions or new information
- RFPG must formally consider an amendment request from a political subdivision in the FPR within 180 days
- Amendments must meet all the requirements related to development of an RFP
- Up to two amendments during the current planning cycle.
- Direct Technical Consultants to perform and submit the data required in Exhibit C for consideration of a new or revised FMX per Task 4A
- No amendments submittal of draft 2028 RFP and adoption of the final 2028 RFP
- Amendments should be timed to coincide with anticipated TWDB amendments to the State Flood Plan, which will be aligned with TWDB flood funding program application periods (TBD)



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# TWDB Amendment Guidance

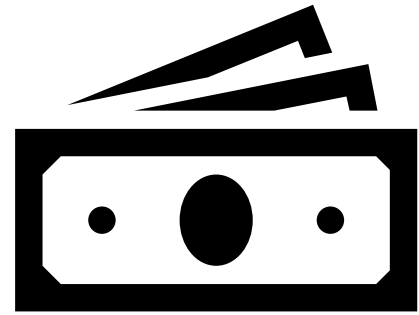
TWDB issued RFP Amendment Submittal Guidance Oct 2<sup>nd</sup>.

General Submission requirements include:

1. 1-page Summary of changes
2. 1 electronic copy of single amended document including all changes to text, tables, and appendices
3. 1 electronic copy of supporting files
4. Compiled geodatabase
5. TWDB geodatabase change log
6. Certification that amendment prepared according to administrative rules



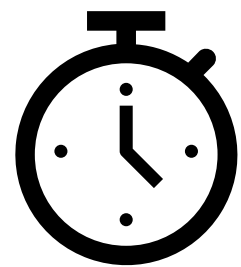
# Key Take Aways !



The Amendment Process is an opportunity to expand funding eligibility in the San Jacinto Region



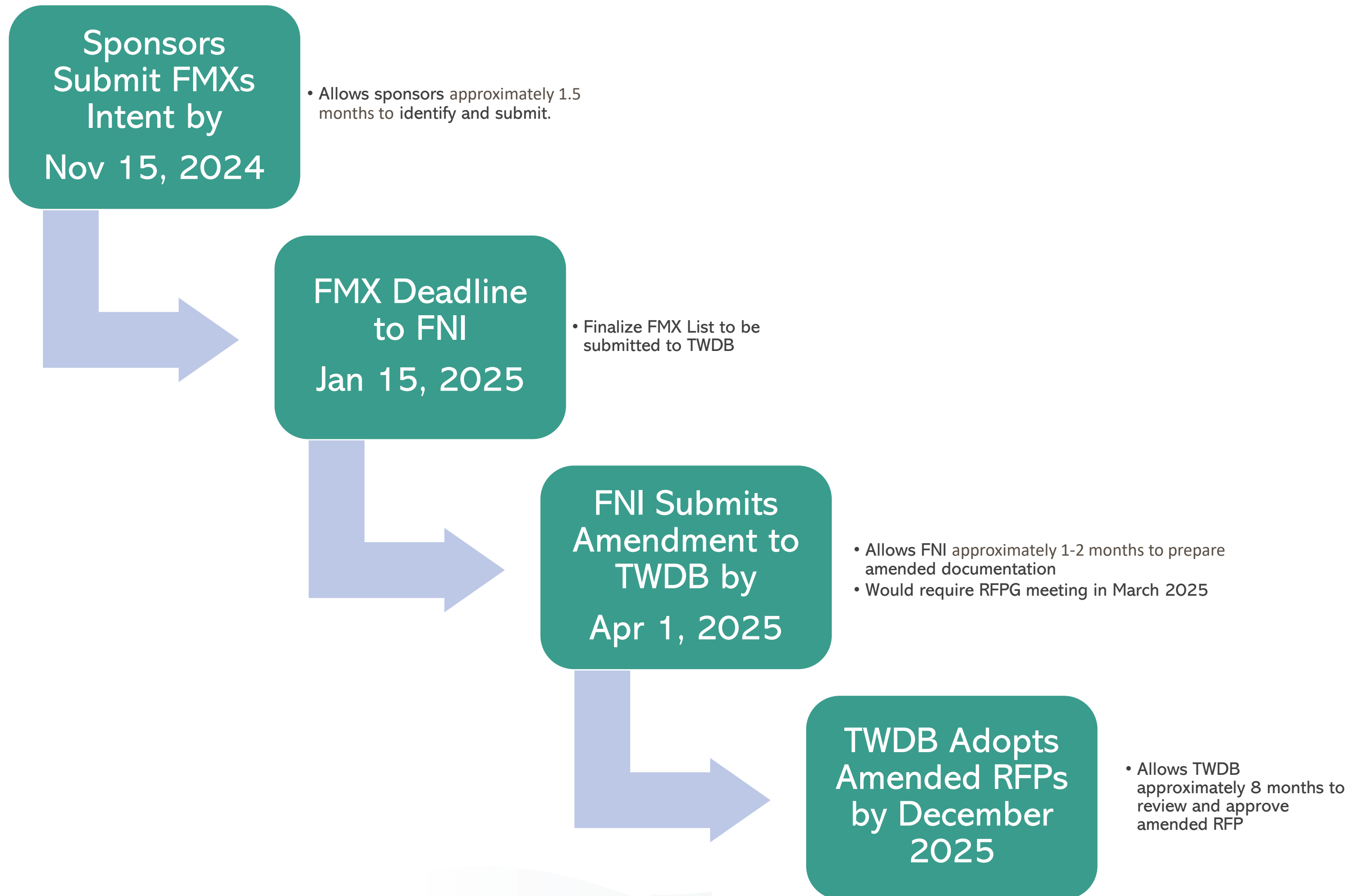
While the Amendment is covered under Task 10, it is a significant effort and will need to be balanced with ongoing flood planning scoped activities



Call for Sponsor FMXs should begin as early as possible

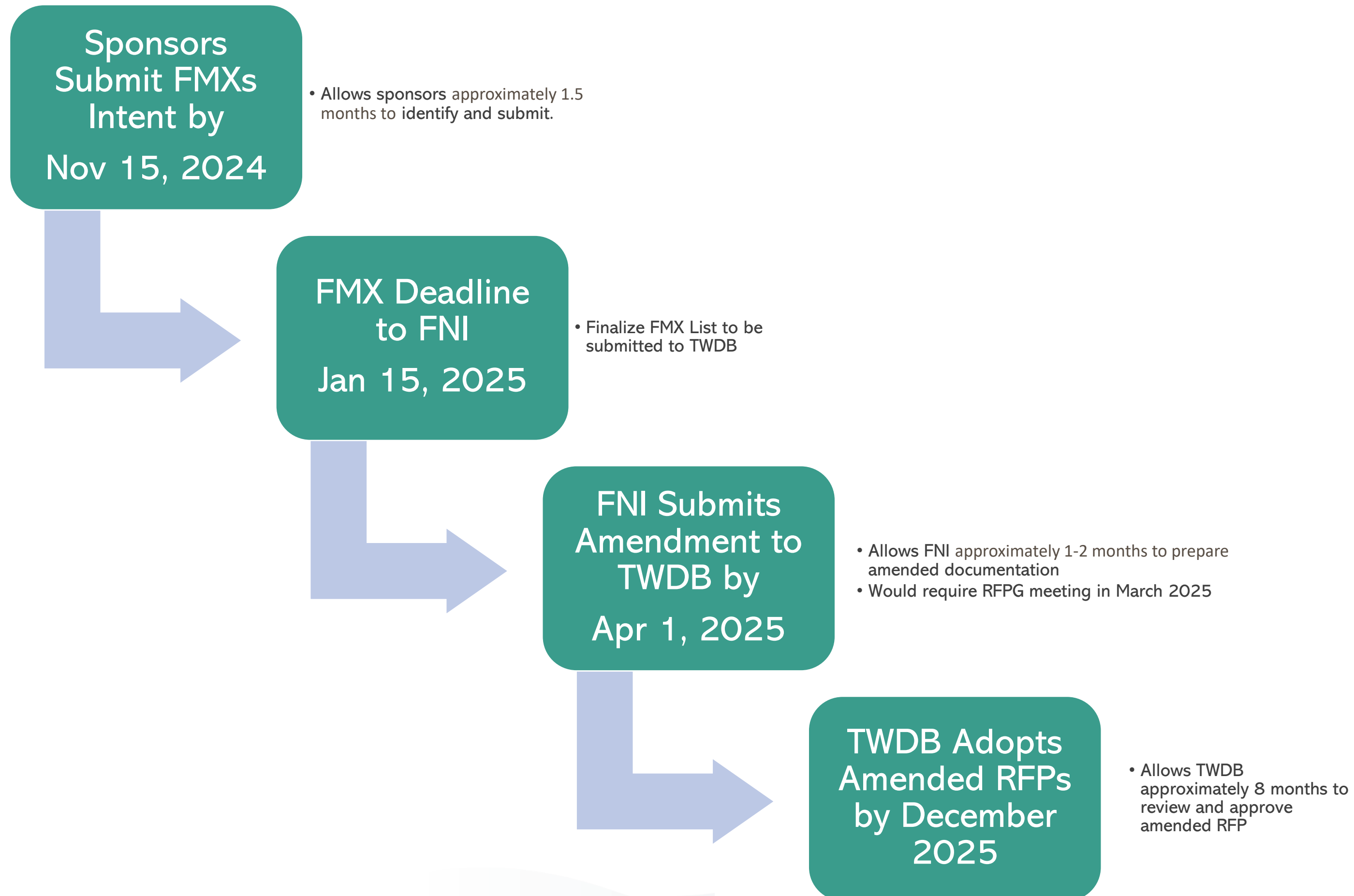


# Amendment Process for RFPG Consideration





# Amendment Process for RFPG Consideration



## Benefits:

- Incorporates lead time
  - Helps understand level of effort given this is occurring parallel to other flood planning activities
  - Allows for engagement with sponsors earlier on
- Maximizes on additional time allotted by TWDB



# Review Draft Amendment Flyer

**FLOOD RISK REDUCTION SOLUTIONS**

**HOW TO SUBMIT FOR STATE FUNDING ELIGIBILITY**

**Introduction to Regional Flood Planning**

In 2019, the Texas Legislature tasked the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) initiating the regional and state flood planning processes. Region 6 is one of 15 Regional Flood Planning Groups (RFPG) across the State tasked with developing a regional flood plan. In 2024, TWDB adopted the inaugural State Flood Plan, which incorporated the findings of the 15 Regional Flood Plans. Regional and state flood planning activities are beginning for the next planning and funding cycle.

**Flood Infrastructure Fund**

The TWDB's Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) is a funding program that provides financial assistance for drainage and flood risk reduction planning/studies, design, and construction (flood risk reduction solutions). Funding includes grants and low or no interest loans to eligible political subdivisions.

*To be eligible for FIF funding, your flood risk reduction solution(s) must be included in the 2024 State Flood Plan.*

A complete list of currently eligible flood risk reduction solutions is available in the 2024 State Flood Plan Documents at [texasstatefloodplan.org](https://texasstatefloodplan.org).

*The next FIF funding cycle is anticipated to open in 2026. To increase the number of eligible communities, the TWDB and RFPG are providing an opportunity to incorporate additional flood risk reduction solutions into the 2024 State Flood Plan through an amendment process.*

TWDB has established an April 1, 2025 submittal deadline. The RFPG must take action prior to submittal for the amendment; therefore, **the RFPG is requesting a Notice of Intent (NOI) from communities considering joining the amendment process. The NOI should be submitted by November 15, 2024, with a full submittal deadline of January 15, 2025.** Beyond the amendment process, additional flood risk reduction solutions can be incorporated into the 2028 Regional Flood Plan and could become eligible for future funding cycles. Anticipated timelines to qualify for FY 2026-2027 FIF funding and future funding cycles are included below.

**TIMELINE**

**Anticipated FY 2026-2027 FIF Funding Cycle**

A horizontal timeline with six chevron-shaped steps pointing right. The steps are: 1. Call for Sponsor FMXs (Today), 2. Submit Notice of Intent (Nov. 15, 2024), 3. Full FMX Submittal (Jan. 15, 2025), 4. Amended 2023 RFP Approved by RFPG (April 1, 2025), 5. TWDB Amends State Flood Plan (Early 2026), 6. 2026 FIF Applications (Early 2026).

**Future Funding Cycles**

A horizontal timeline with three chevron-shaped steps pointing right. The steps are: 1. Submit FMX to RFPG (Spring 2025), 2. RFPG Drafts 2028 RFP (August 2025), 3. Future Funding Cycles (February 2027).

Introduction to RFPs and the San Jacinto RFPG

Explains that recommendation in the RFP defines eligibility for FY26-27 FIF Funding

Specifies what is needed from potential FMX sponsors at a high-level

Provides timeline for inclusion in the RFP for the FY26-27 FIF competition as well as future funding opportunities



# Review Draft Amendment Flyer

## TYPES OF ELIGIBLE SOLUTIONS

Flood risk reduction solutions are classified into 3 categories, Flood Management Evaluation (FME), Flood Management Strategy (FMS), and Flood Mitigation Projects (FMP).

 <p><b>FLOOD MANAGEMENT EVALUATION</b></p> <p>Studies to Assess Flood Risk or Identify Potential Projects</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Watershed Planning Study</li> <li>•Project Feasibility Study</li> <li>•Dam Evaluations</li> </ul>	 <p><b>FLOOD MANAGEMENT STRATEGY</b></p> <p>Policy Changes, Education, &amp; Awareness</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Outreach &amp; Education Programs</li> <li>•Flood Warning Systems</li> <li>•Drainage Criteria Development</li> <li>•Property Acquisition or Elevation</li> </ul>	 <p><b>FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT</b></p> <p>Structural Project to Reduce Flood Risk</p> <p>Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Open Channel Projects</li> <li>•Road Crossing Improvements</li> <li>•Storm Drain Projects</li> <li>•Detention Projects</li> </ul>
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Defines eligible activities and examples

Specifies what is needed from potential FMX sponsors in more detail

For inclusion in the 2024 Plan Amendment, all proposed FMEs, FMSs, and FMPs received must be reviewed for completeness, alignment with RFPG-adopted flood mitigation and floodplain management goals, and recommended by the RFPG. The submittal checklist below identifies key requirements for each flood risk solution type.

## SUBMITTAL CHECKLIST

FME	FMS	FMP	Requirements
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Notice of Intent by November 15, 2024
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Project/Study Name
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Scope Description
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Shapefile (Study area or Project Area)*
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Estimated Study Cost (Non-Construction)
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Estimated Construction Cost
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Hydrologic & Hydraulic Models
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Pre & Post Project 100yr Floodplains
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Benefit Cost Analysis
		<input type="checkbox"/>	No Negative Impacts Certification
		<input type="checkbox"/>	Pre & Post Project Flood Risk Exposure*

## GET INVOLVED

If interested in submitting a FME, FMS, or FMP in the 2024 Flood Plan Amendment, please reach out to the San Jacinto Technical Consultant at [SJRFPG.TechCon@freese.com](mailto:SJRFPG.TechCon@freese.com) or 832-937-5318.

For information on the RFPG and its meetings, please visit [sanjacintofloodplanning.org](http://sanjacintofloodplanning.org). Meeting attendance is available online or in person.

To learn more about the 2023 Regional Flood Plan visit our [storymap](#) located on the home page of [our](#) website.


Provides relevant contact information and directs sponsors to the website.

\*Technical Consultant will provide additional detail following Notice of Intent



# Anticipated FMXs to be Submitted

The following communities have inquired about the opportunity to submit FMXs for this Amendment:

- Coastal Prairie Conservancy *(2023 Public Comment)*
  - Brazoria County Drainage District #4 *(2023 Public Comment)*
  - City of Galveston *(2023 Public Comment)*
  - City of Houston
  - Montgomery County
  - Harris County Flood Control District
- 
- A decorative graphic in the bottom right corner consisting of several overlapping, wavy, light blue lines that resemble water or a stylized landscape. Scattered throughout these waves are several white circles of varying sizes, some solid and some with a thin white outline, creating a bubbly or organic feel.



## **ITEM 10**

### **Presentation of 2024 Planning Group Key Dates and Deadlines:**

- a. Upcoming Planning Schedule Milestones**
- b. Next RFPG Planning Meeting to be held December 12, 2024**



# ITEM 11

## Consider Agenda Items for Next Meeting



# ITEM 12

## Public Comments – Limit 3 Minutes Per Person



# ITEM 13

# Adjournment