

BACKGROUND

In the wake of historic flooding in Texas, the 2019 Texas Legislature passed legislation to create Texas' first-ever regional and state flood planning process. The Legislature created a state flood planning framework and charged the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) with creating flood planning regions based on river basins and with administering the ongoing work of flood planning.

The San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group (San Jacinto Region) is one of the 15 Regional Flood Planning Groups (RFPGs) formed by the TWDB. San Jacinto Region includes all or part of 11 counties and extends from Galveston in the south to Huntsville in the north.

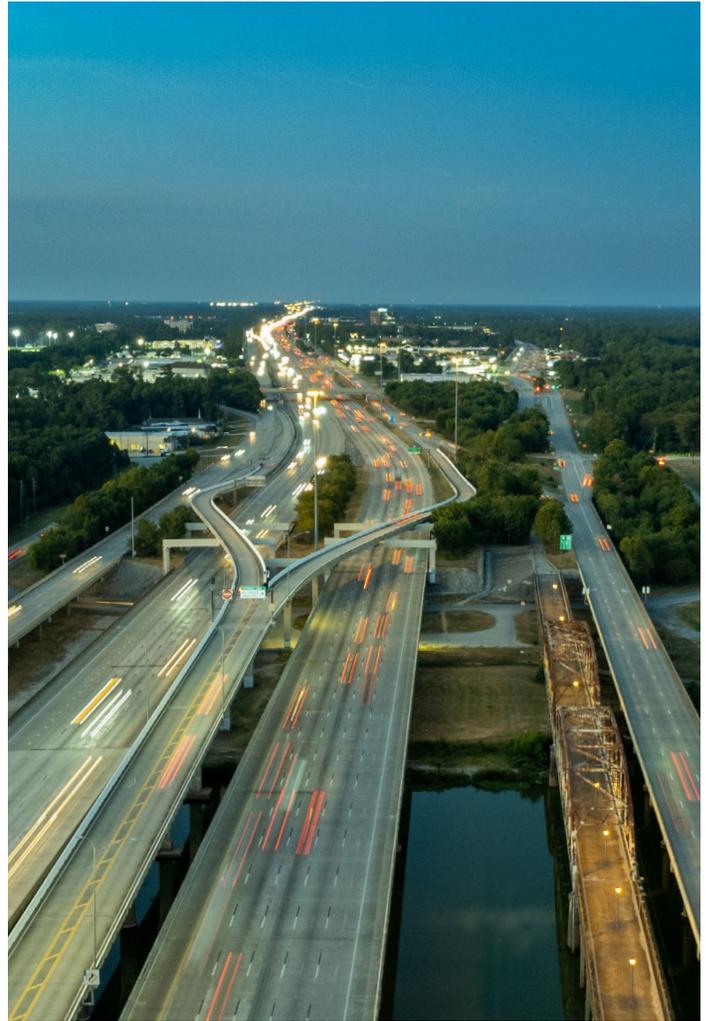
Through this groundbreaking, first of its kind flood planning effort, San Jacinto Region received a flood planning grant from the TWDB to help identify specific flood risks as well as strategies to reduce flood risks in coming years. This effort represents a bottom-up approach to flood planning and is intended to be a transparent process which relies on public input.

ABOUT REGION 6

The San Jacinto region spans all or parts of 11 counties, stretching from Galveston County on the coast to Walker County in the north. Covering 5,089 square miles, it is the second smallest flood planning region in Texas by area but the second most populous, home to approximately 6.4 million people. With 1,200 people per square mile, it is also the state's most densely populated region.

The region features diverse landscapes — from coastal areas below sea level to elevations of about 400 feet in northern Walker County — and is served by an extensive network of natural and built flood infrastructure. This includes roughly 3,700 miles of streams, creeks, and bayous, as well as thousands of acres of ponds, reservoirs, and wetlands.

Flooding is a major concern due to the region's development and coastal proximity. From 1975 to 2019, the San Jacinto region recorded the highest number of National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) claims in Texas. About 21% of the state's population lives here, requiring a balance between the needs of rural communities and rapidly growing urban centers, particularly in the Greater Houston area and along the coast. The region includes 92 municipalities, with most residents concentrated in and around Houston.



Interstate 69 crossing at Spring Creek



Flooding on San Jacinto River, May 2024

FLOOD RISK IN REGION 6

Flood risks in Region 6 are widespread and diverse, ranging from intense urban flash flooding to significant riverine and coastal flooding throughout the watershed. The San Jacinto region has experienced repeated and severe flood events, affecting both densely developed communities and less populated areas. These events continue to threaten public safety, disrupt daily life and economic activity, and damage vital infrastructure. In response, the San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group is committed to advancing strategic, science-based flood management practices to reduce future flood impacts and strengthen regional resilience.

ABOUT THE REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING PROCESS

In 2019, the Texas Legislature created the state's first regional and state flood planning process, led by the TWDB. This effort, involving 15 Regional Flood Planning Groups (RFPGs) across Texas, aims to reduce existing flood risks, prevent new ones, and build a more flood-resilient future through collaborative, data-driven planning.

Region 6 developed its first Regional Flood Plan in 2023, which was combined with other regional plans to create the 2024 State Flood Plan. Updated every five years, these plans ensure that local priorities and projects are considered for state and federal funding.

We are now in the second planning cycle (2024–2028). The second Jacinto Regional Flood Plan will be submitted to TWDB by January 10, 2028, and included in the 2029 State Flood Plan.

Key tasks of the San Jacinto RFPG include:

- Gathering and analyzing data to create an accurate depiction of the basin's characteristics
- Identifying existing and future flood risks across the basin
- Evaluating current flood plain management practices by entities within the basin (regulations to prevent future flood problems)
- Setting goals for flood risk management and mitigation improvements throughout the basin
- Recommending the best flood management evaluations to identify flood risks and potential solutions and the best flood mitigation strategies and projects to address existing and future flood issues in the basin

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REGIONAL FLOOD PLANNING SCHEDULE



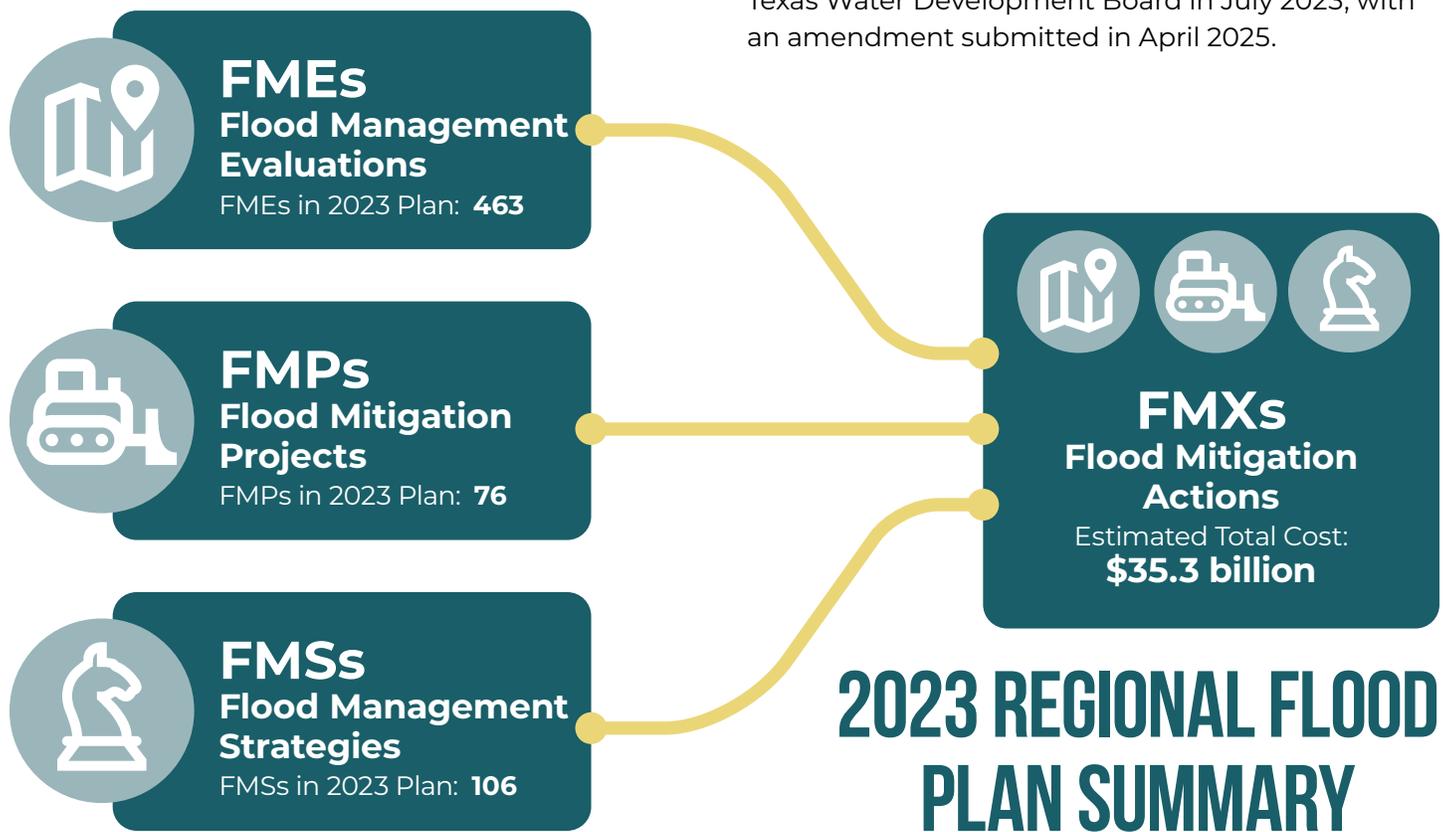
CURRENT FLOOD MITIGATION MEASURES

The 2023 Regional Flood Plan for the San Jacinto region identifies key actions to reduce flood risks and protect communities. These include:

- **Flood Management Evaluations (FMEs):** Studies that identify high-risk areas and develop potential solutions, such as regional flood risk assessments, master drainage plans, and feasibility studies.
- **Flood Mitigation Projects (FMPs):** Infrastructure improvements like levees, reservoirs, detention ponds, and drainage system upgrades designed to reduce flooding.
- **Flood Management Strategies (FMSs):** Policies and non-structural measures, including zoning regulations, floodplain management ordinances, flood warning systems, and public awareness programs.
- **Flood Mitigation Actions (FMXs):** A collective term for all evaluations, projects, and strategies aimed at reducing flood risks.

Through collaboration with local communities, the plan identifies 70 recommended flood mitigation projects, 65 management strategies, and 405 evaluations. If implemented, the recommended flood mitigation actions would have a positive impact on flood preparedness and flood risk reduction, including helping to address flood data gaps and identifying high flood risk areas and will result in the identification of future flood mitigation projects. The total cost of the recommended actions is estimated at \$33.8 billion, with funding expected from a combination of local, state, and federal sources.

The 2023 Regional Flood Plan marks a significant step forward in protecting Region 6 from the devastating effects of future floods. With ongoing public engagement and future updates to the plan, Region 6 will continue to refine its strategies and strengthen its flood resilience. The first San Jacinto Regional Flood Plan was officially submitted to the Texas Water Development Board in July 2023, with an amendment submitted in April 2025.





What is the State Flood Plan?

In 2019, the Texas Legislature passed Senate Bill 8 directing the creation of the first-ever State Flood Plan for Texas. The preparation of this new flood plan is being led by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) and follows a similar regional approach used for water supply planning in Texas for the past 20 years. As part of this effort, TWDB will establish a clearinghouse of information about state and federal flood planning, mitigation, and control programs that may serve as sources of funding for flood projects.

The TWDB has designated fifteen (15) flood planning regions within the state based on the corresponding river basins. The overarching goal of regional flood planning, and the comprehensive state flood plan that will result from the plans created by these regions, is to protect against loss of life and property from flooding. The first regional flood plans were submitted in July 2023, and the first state flood plan was submitted to the Texas Legislature in September 2024.

Now, the flood planning regions are beginning the second planning cycle. The second San Jacinto Regional Flood Plan is due to the TWDB by January 10, 2028, and will be incorporated into the overall 2029 State Flood Plan.

What is the San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group and its role with the State Flood Plan?

The San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group (San Jacinto RFPG) includes all or part of 11 counties and extends from Galveston in the south to Huntsville in the north. Fifteen (15) voting members,

appointed by the TWDB Executive Director, serve on the San Jacinto Regional Flood Planning Group and represent the following interest categories: Agriculture, Industries, Counties, Electric Generating Utilities, Flood Districts, Municipalities, General Public, River Authorities, Small Businesses, Water Districts, Water Utilities, Environmental Interests, and Coastal Communities. The primary role of the San Jacinto RFPG is to develop a regional flood plan for the Region 6 San Jacinto Flood Planning Region that identifies flood risks, establishes flood mitigation and floodplain management goals, and recommends evaluations, strategies, and projects to reduce flood risks.

The San Jacinto Region is the second most populous flood planning region, despite being the second smallest region by area, and is subject to many sources of flooding, including:

- Fluvial or riverine flooding, where floodwater escapes channel banks.
- Pluvial flooding caused by water trying to reach a stream via overland flow paths.
- Urban flooding, where local drainage systems are overwhelmed or unable to drain.
- Coastal flooding, caused by storm surge and extreme tidal conditions.
- Flooding caused by dam or levee failure.

The State Flood Plan will be based on regional flood plans developed by local stakeholders representing diverse interests. The second San Jacinto Regional Flood Plan is due to the TWDB by January 10, 2028, and will be incorporated into the overall State Flood Plan.

Will floodplain modeling be included in the Scope of Work by the engineering consultant for the San Jacinto Flood Planning Region?

Comprehensive floodplain modeling for the San Jacinto Region is not included in the Scope of Work developed by the TWDB for the San Jacinto Planning Region. Flood risk assessment efforts will primarily be based on is known as the “flood hazard quilt,” a tool that takes every available flood map and study from across the region and weaves them together into one comprehensive picture.

Limited flood modeling will be performed for isolated areas across the basin to assess flood risk within the region and identify flood risk management projects.

What is the Texas General Land Office (GLO) Combined River Basin Flood Studies? Does it duplicate planning activities by the TWDB for the San Jacinto RFPG?

The Texas GLO is currently conducting the Combined River Basin Flood Studies across the counties that received a presidential disaster declaration due to the impact of Hurricane Harvey. This one-time study focuses on the following goals in order to better prepare communities for future flood impacts associated with extreme weather events:

- Evaluates flood risk information;
- Develops cost-effective mitigation strategies; and,
- Identifies possible funding sources for future mitigation projects to support resiliency and growth.

This study complements and will work in conjunction with TWDB’s Regional Flood Planning Groups, including the sharing of flood data through the Texas Disaster Information System (TDIS), a critical tool used by the state to assist communities. Information collected for this regional flood plan will be shared with the GLO study consultant to avoid the duplication of data collection efforts. The target completion date for the Texas GLO Combined River Basin Flood Studies is Summer 2026.

Why should I and/or my community participate in the planning process?

The San Jacinto RFPG is seeking participation and input from everyone knowledgeable of and affected by flooding issues in the basin. Visit the San Jacinto RFPG website (sanjacintofloodplanning.org/) to provide feedback on the interactive map, or contact the team at <https://sanjacintofloodplanning.org/contact-us/>.

This regional plan will serve as a roadmap for flood planning in your river basin; its success depends on your involvement! The plan will assess flood risk in your community and potential mitigation strategies and measures. The plan will recommend studies, where needed, to evaluate flooding problems and identify potential solutions in greater detail. More importantly, proposed flood mitigation projects must be included in the Regional and State Flood Plans in order to be eligible for State financial assistance.



What is the difference between a flood control/mitigation project and a water supply project that is the State Water Plan?

Flood mitigation projects tend to focus on avoiding or reducing the negative impacts from flood water during and shortly after high rainfall events. Water supply projects focus on providing reliable water supply throughout periods of extremely low rainfall. A potential project that would capture flood water and store it to be used later for water supply could be evaluated as part of water supply planning, as well as flood management.

Will the State Flood Plan produce Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs)?

No, the State Flood Plan will not produce new FIRMs. FIRMs are official maps approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) that delineate special insurance-related flood hazard areas and risk zones within communities. Activities conducted to produce FIRMs follow a four-phase process according to FEMA's guidelines and standards and typically take a minimum of five years to complete. However, modeling and other technical activities that will support the development of the state flood plan will result in tools and preliminary maps that could be used by communities to support and complement FEMA's existing process for producing updated FIRMs.

Who is the planning group sponsor for the San Jacinto RFPG and what are their responsibilities?

Harris County serves as the sponsor for the San Jacinto RFPG. The planning group sponsor is responsible for the following:

- Preparing and submitting grant funding applications to the TWDB on behalf of the regional flood planning group.
- Entering and managing a contract with the TWDB for the management of the grant funds.
- Procuring and managing a contract with a technical consultant(s) selected by the regional flood planning group to support the development or revision of a regional flood plan.
- Serving as the regional flood planning group's administrative agent by organizing planning group meetings, public notices, agendas, meeting presentations, handouts, and meeting minutes.
- Delivering the regional flood plan on behalf of the planning group.

How will the San Jacinto Regional Flood Plan be implemented?

Eventually, implementation of adopted regional flood plan policies and projects will rely on local and regional entities and specific project sponsors in cooperation with participating entities, as necessary.

How are other flood planning activities considered in the state's regional flood planning process?

Regional flood planning groups are expected to consider a wide variety of available, relevant information and tools when developing regional flood plans, including other regional and local flood planning studies. The planning groups will be expected to work cooperatively with other entities conducting flood planning activities in the region to avoid duplication of effort and to make the best and most efficient use of local, state, and federal resources. Additionally, no funds will be provided by the TWDB to regional flood planning groups for activities for which the TWDB determines existing information, data, or analyses are sufficient for the planning effort.

How are regional projects considered in the planning process?

The development of regional flood mitigation projects is a potentially feasible flood management strategy that must be considered in accordance with Texas Water Code §16.062(e). The decision to recommend a particular flood management strategy or flood mitigation project is the responsibility of the regional flood planning groups.

Are San Jacinto RFPG Meetings open to the public?

All meetings of regional flood planning group and their committees or subcommittees are open to the public and subject to the Texas Open Meetings Act, Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code. The minimum public notice for planning group meetings is 7 days in accordance with the TWDB's regional flood planning rules, which require additional notice and public comment periods for some regional flood planning group activities.



GET INVOLVED!

The success of the San Jacinto RFPG depends on input from the public. By engaging with local communities, the group ensures that the flood planning process is transparent and that it reflects the priorities and concerns of those most affected by flooding. A key component of the regional flood planning process is identifying community funding needs for the implementation of flood risk management and mitigation measures. Only items included in the plan will be eligible for state funding through the TWDB.

If you are interested in learning more about the flood planning process or want to get involved, visit sanjacintofloodplanning.org to learn more about how to attend public meetings, submit comments or project ideas, use the interactive flood risk map, share data, and sign up for updates.

ABOUT THE TEXAS WATER DEVELOPMENT BOARD

The Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) is a state agency formed in 1957 in response to Texas' record-breaking drought. Based on the most recent legislative session, the agency's main responsibilities include the following: assisting with regional water planning and preparing the state water plan every five years; assisting with regional flood planning and preparing the state flood plan every five years; collecting, analyzing, and distributing water-related and geographic data; and providing loan and grant money for Texas water, wastewater, and flood projects.

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For Questions & Comments:
SJRFPG.TechCon@freese.com

TWDB Contact:

Nick Collins

nick.collins@twdb.texas.gov