APPENDIX I: Written Comments Received Prior to Submittal of Draft Regional Flood Plan

DATE	NAME	SUBMISSION PLATFORM		TRINITY RFPG RESPONSE AND/OR ACTION TAKEN
July 5, 2021	Bob Kosar	Email	Dear Clair, Colin, Doug, Mohamed, and Kim, Thank you for the opportunity to provide information during your data collection process. The City of El Lago is one of many coastal communities affected by the water surface level in Galveston and Trinity Bays. I would like the Regional Flood Planning committee to be aware of an issue that is a concern among several of the coastal communities that I work for or represent in the Clear Lake area. The issue is the WSEL of Galveston Bay caused by hurricane wind surge and stormwater runoff from major rainfall events. The WSEL is too often assumed to be solely a tidal influenced WSEL and infinitely large enough to absorb all inflows. This lower than actual WSEL assumption is a major deficiency in designing local and large area drainage systems that are affected by Trinity and Galveston Bay WSEL during major weather events. Texas A&M at Galveston and Clear Creek Watershed Steering Committee have commented on and passed local resolutions in support of the USACE feasibility study for coastal protection and the Galveston Bay lines of defense on Clear Creek and Dickinson Bayou. The Regional Flood Planning group should be "in the loop" to support this project and ensure it is effective when final design begins to mitigate coastal flooding caused by hurricane wind surge. Hurricane Harvey provided an opportunity to analyze the effects of a major rain event with very minimal surge effect on Galveston Bay WSEL. The attached reports provide supporting data that show Galveston Bay and the Bolivar channel to the Gulf are simply not big enough to handle all of the rivers and individual watersheds that flowed into the bay during and after Harvey. The Harvey-Galveston Bay effect reports attached from Dr. Park and colleagues at Texas A&M Galveston, Marine Sciences Department illustrates the effects of Hurricane Harvey on Galveston Bay, particularly the fresh water inflow. The major stream flow sources and observed water level at three locations inside Galveston Bay are graphically shown in Figures 4 and 5. The data shows that water level was elevated to a peak of 1-1.2 meters; that higher WSELs were sustained for 4-5 days after the rain; and that the Trinity River outflow had a major effect on WSEL. The prolonged and increased bay WSEL limited stormwater outflow ability from communities located near the Bays. Like any stream or river, the flooding wave crest cannot move from the rivers and tributaries and through Galveston/Trinity Bays until it can flow out the Bolivar channel to the gulf – reference Harvey-Clear Lake-Bay WSEL attachment. Additional notes that may affect the bay WSEL to be even higher in a similar Harvey-type event: • During Harvey, Rollover Pass was open and some 5-10% of the outflow was able to exit the Bay from this outlet. Rollover Pass is being filled in by GLO and will not be available as an outflow in the future. • The current Coastal Barrier system design for the Bolivar Pass gate structures will reduce the inflow/outflow between the Gulf and the Bay by ~7% when built in the future. • The San Luis Pass is not currently being considered for any gate structures but if gates are built they will also reduce the inflow/outflow from the Bay to the Gulf in a rain event. This is far from a "net zero affect" and should be improved upon to become net zero with additional inflow/outflow capacity to at least offset the Rollover Pass closure and Bolivar Pass gate structures. Coordination between the Trinity River Region Flood Planning Group with the San Jacinto Flood Planning Region is needed to prevent the potential to be influenced by inter-basin flooding, manage ongoing coastal flood mitigation efforts, and manage the stream contribution to the bays from both regions. The Trinity and San Jacinto regions drain an enormous area from direct rainfall and rain flow outfall areas causing the Galveston Bay tailwater elevation to negatively affect the stormwater outlet flowrate from all upstream rivers, bayous, creeks and tributaries entering the bay. Therefore, both flood planning regions need to consider the cumulative effects on Trinity and Galveston Bay WSEL when adopting guidance principles for regional flood planning in support of the regions' flood prevention planning and project developments. Please consider upstream surface water storage and/or aquifer recharge to mitigate downstream effects in the bays.	Acknowledged and shared with Trinity RFPG for consideration. Probably more of a technical input than a general comment.
July 23, 2021	Jerry M. Wimpee	Email	My name is Jerry Wimpee. I am a retired 20 year Rockwall County Commissioner and currently serve as a Director on the Rockwall County Open Space Alliance Board. Rockwall County is the smallest county in Texas but is the 10th most densely populated of the 254 counties. We are located on high ground so all of the strom water runs down hill to others; the only water that enters Rockwall County is the East Fork of The Trinity, which is Lake Ray Hubbard. The County's Subdivision Regulations do not permit changing the natural valley storage based on the 100 year floodplain. We were surprised to learn that our 100 year floodplain was established in the 1940-1950s when we were mostly rural. Our rapid growth has caused all cities to annex and expand so the county no longer has limited subdivision developments. I'm concerned that our future could be mostly concrete and rooftops and thereby cause more stormwater. Thank you for this important planning work. My very best wishes to the Planning Group.	Acknowledged and shared with Trinity RFPG for consideration.
July 23, 2021	Bernice Farrow	Website	My home place floods deeply and I have to move my horses to higher ground. Which means I have to move them before it gets too deep. I am next door to Scot Kahala and his place floods also and mine does not begin to drain until his drains. So I stay under water a long time. My physical address is 3837 S. Hwy. 124 Stowell, Texas 77661. Thank you for trying to improve the drainage in Stowell but if the pipes are not cleaned out with the ditch it can not drain. My flood insurance has increased so much I may not be able to afford it next year.	Acknowledged and shared with Trinity RFPG for consideration. Also shared with Neches RFPG as the physical address provided by the commenter is outside the Trinity River Basin and is actually within the Neches Region. Also alerted stakeholder that her address falls within the Neches Region and that her comment had been shared.
October 5, 2021	Patrick B. Baugh	Website	Comment category: Feedback on Draft Goals or Recommended Floodplain Management Standards The draft goals for the Trinity River Basin Regional Flood Planning Group are sufficient to initiate more thought on actions anticipated for improving the situation over the next decade. It is likely that those will be refined within that period to establish more finite and incremental milestones of achievement. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.	Acknowledged and shared with Trinity RFPG for consideration.
November 12, 2021	Russell Erskine	Website	Related to flood planning documents Comments: For Table 3.2, why is discounts not shown based on Risk 2.0?	Acknowledged and shared with Trinity RFPG for consideration. Probably more of a technical input than a general comment.
March 3, 2022	Bruce Campbell	Website	I've lived on Lake Livingston for 20 years now. One of my frustrations is the way the TRA operates the Lake Livingston dam especially when the lake level is more than 2 feet about target. I've met with them in the past, commented on Facebook, sent them e-mails, etc. However, I was told directly by them that the operating procedures are designed to help them mimic the flow in the river as if the dam were not there. They are not allowed to make decisions based on flood control objectives. When the Sabine River flooded several years ago (2016), I remember a reporter asking a representative from the Sabine River Authority about what could be done to prevent this kind of flooding in the future. He basically said the same thing that TRA said to me is their operating procedures did not allow taking into account flood prevention or flood control. My suggestions on changing dam operating procedures include considering basically two. items. First, when the lake level is rising due to local rain or flows from upstream and the lake is 4-5 inches about target levels, start raising the discharge rate at the dam. I've seen TRA wait days before increasing the discharge rate. Second, I have seen times when heavy rain occurred between Livingston and Dallas and heavy flows were already headed south based on USGS data available on line. However, even though there is no way to avoid this water coming into the lake, TRA is not allowed to start raising the discharge rate at the dam even if it drafts the lake say 3-5 inches below the target level. Maybe a key discussion topic should be what type of flood control actions should TRA be allowed to take.	Acknowledged and shared with Trinity RFPG for consideration.