

The TWDB presented its findings to the 86th Texas legislative session in 2019. Later that year, the Legislature adopted changes to Texas Water Code §16.061 which established a regional and state flood planning process led by the TWDB. The legislation provided funding to improve the state’s floodplain mapping efforts and to develop regional plans to mitigate the impact of future flooding. Regional flood plans for each of the state’s 15 flood planning regions ~~must be that were~~ submitted to the TWDB by January 10, 2023. In response to concerns regarding the expedited schedule to prepare the flood plans, the TWDB secured additional funding and provided the planning groups an additional six (6) months to prepare and adopt amended plans to incorporate additional flood mitigation actions. The amended plans ~~must be were~~ submitted to the TWDB by July 14, 2023. An updated version of the regional flood plans will be due every five years thereafter. (TWDB Flood Planning Frequently Asked Questions, 2021)

Overview of the Planning Process

Given the diverse geography, culture, and population of the state, the planning effort is being carried out at a regional level in each of the state’s major river basins. The Region 3 (Trinity Region) is one of 15 flood planning regions where a regional flood plan will be developed. When complete, the TWDB will compile these regional plans into a single statewide flood plan and will present it to the Legislature in 2024. Regional flood plans are required to be based on the best available science, data, models, and flood risk mapping. The Legislature allocated funding to be distributed by the TWDB for the procurement of technical assistance to develop the flood plans.

Who’s Preparing the Plan?

The TWDB has appointed Regional Flood Planning Groups (RFPGs) for each region and has provided them with funding to hire technical consultants to help prepare their plans. Because it is not a political subdivision, the RFPG cannot enter into a contract with the TWDB to receive the funding to develop the plan. Therefore, each RFPG selects a political subdivision to handle contract administration. Trinity RFPG chose the Trinity River Authority (TRA) to serve as its sponsor. The sponsor’s role is to provide support for meetings and communications and to manage the technical consultant contract.

The RFPG’s responsibilities include directing the work of their technical consultant; soliciting and considering public input; identifying specific flood risks; and identifying and recommending Flood Management Evaluations (FMEs), Flood Management Strategies (FMSs), and Flood Mitigation Projects (FMPs) to reduce risk in their regions. To ensure a diversity of perspectives are included, members represent a wide variety of entities potentially affected by flooding, including:

- Agriculture
- Counties
- Electric Generation Utilities
- Environmental Interests