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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group Submits Amended Regional Flood Plan to Texas Water Development Board

Amendment adds 49 new Flood Mitigation Projects that could reduce flooding exposure for up to 2,000 additional structures and nearly 20,000 more currently exposed people across the Trinity River Basin

**Texas' Trinity River Basin – July 24, 2023** – After meeting in late June to authorize final revisions and amendments, the Trinity Regional Flood Planning Group (RFPG) has submitted its newly Amended Regional Flood Plan for Texas' Trinity River Basin to the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB).

The original Plan was submitted to the TWDB in January 2023. The recent amendment process was the last major opportunity for Regional Flood Plan enhancements before the next five-year planning cycle, giving potential project sponsors more time to get their priority flood mitigation solutions considered for the Plan. This is important because all flood mitigation solutions included in the Regional Plan, which will eventually become part of the 2024 State Flood Plan, could be eligible for possible state funding in the near future.

The amendments added 49 new Flood Mitigation Projects (FMPs), as well as 165 additional Flood Management Evaluations (FMEs) and two additional Flood Management Strategies (FMSs), to the 2023 Trinity Regional Flood Plan. When implemented, the newly added FMPs alone could reduce or mitigate flooding exposure for nearly 2,000 structures and approximately 20,000 people.

The additions mean the 2023 Trinity Regional Flood Plan now includes 56 recommended FMPs, 507 recommended FMEs and 138 recommended FMSs.

The Trinity Regional Flood Plan draws on the best available science, data, models and flood risk mapping to **recommend over \$1 billion in flood mitigation actions** designed to fix local flooding issues and reduce flood-related loss of lives, property and livelihoods throughout the region. The full 2023 Trinity Regional Flood Plan as recently amended can be found on the <u>Planning Documents</u> page of the Trinity RFPG website (trinityrfpg.org), using the Categories tool to sort by "2023 Amended Plan."

Based on all the amended regional flood plans, the TWDB will prepare and adopt Texas' first-ever State Flood Plan and present it to the Texas Legislature in September 2024.

## **About the Trinity RFPG and the Flood Planning Process**

The Trinity RFPG is among 15 regional flood planning groups designated in April 2020 by the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB), as a result of Senate Bill 8, 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature, which established a groundbreaking, new regional and state flood planning process. At the same time, the Texas Legislature also created a new flood financial assistance fund and charged the TWDB with administering the fund. The Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF), approved by Texas voters in Nov. 2019, requires studies, projects and strategies be recommended in the State Flood Plan in order for the sponsor to be eligible to apply for this funding.

After the current, first round of flood planning, each of the regional flood planning groups will update their plans every five years.

The initial members of the Trinity RFPG were designated by the TWDB in 2020. The Planning Group's membership includes at least one voting member from each of the following interest categories: the public, counties, municipalities, industry, agriculture, environment, small business, electric-generating utilities, river authorities, water districts, water utilities and flood districts. In April 2021, the Trinity RFPG engaged a technical consultant team led by Halff to support its planning effort.

The Trinity RFPG's planning region (Trinity River Basin or Region 3) has an estimated population of approximately 8 million and spans nearly 18,000 square miles across 38 counties from Cooke County in the north to Chambers County on the Gulf Coast.

For more information, visit the Trinity RFPG website at <a href="www.trinityrfpg.org">www.trinityrfpg.org</a>, follow the group on Twitter at <a href="https://twitter.com/TrinityRFPG">https://twitter.com/TrinityRFPG</a> or email the group via <a href="mailto:info@trinityrfpg.org">info@trinityrfpg.org</a>.

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