

Proposed Process

TWDB requirements for Task 4B state that each RFPG is to develop and receive public comment on a “...proposed process to be used by the RFPG to identify and select flood management evaluations, flood mitigation strategies, and flood mitigation projects. This process, once adopted by the RFPG, is to be documented and such documentation is to be included in the Technical Memorandum, the Initial Draft Regional Flood Plan, and the adopted Regional Flood Plan.

The Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG developed and adopted the required process over the course of several RFPG meetings. On August 16, 2021, the RFPG received a presentation from the Technical Consultant for the region outlining a proposed process for screening, evaluation, and recommendation of potential studies (FMEs), strategies (FMSs), and projects (FMPs). Subsequently, at the October 18, 2021, meeting, the RFPG reviewed and discussed the proposed process and accepted public comment. At its November 15, 2021, meeting the RFPG will consider approval of the process.

The following describes the proposed process being considered by the RFPG and on which public comment will be taken, both during the November 15th RFPG meeting and via written comments submitted through the RFPG’s website. The process, as described below, was designed to conform with TWDB requirements as expressed in rules, the scope-of-work for the regional flood planning process, and technical guidelines.

Step 1: Conduct an initial screening of Projects, Studies, and Strategies that were received by or developed in conjunction with floodplain management communities/project sponsors:

In this first step, screening is conducted based on minimum TWDB requirements. The screening criteria applied in this step are:

- The study/strategy/project is related to a flood mitigation or floodplain management goal.
- The study/strategy/project meets an emergency need.
- The study/strategy/project addresses a flood problem with drainage area of 1 square mile or greater.
- The study/strategy/project reduces flood risk for the 100-year (1% annual chance) flood.
- Exceptions for level of flood risk reduction or problem area size include instances of flooding of critical facilities, transportation routes, or other factors as determined by the RFPG.

Step 2-1: Screening of Projects (FMPs):

In the second step, potential Flood Mitigation Projects are subjected to a screening-level evaluation based on the TWDB Technical Guidelines for Regional Flood Planning (April 2021) and specifically Figure 5 FMP flowchart (Attachment A). If a potential FMP does satisfy the screening criteria in this step, it will then become a potential Flood Management Evaluation. There are three criteria that are applied in this step are: “sufficient data”, “no negative effect”, and “project details”.

- Sufficient data - The data upon which an assessment of no negative effect has been made must be reliable and have minimal uncertainty. H&H modeling, mapping, and basis for mitigation analysis must generally meet Section 3.5 of TWDB technical guidelines.

- No negative effect - The potential Project must not have negative impact on the 100-year (1% annual chance) flood event. It must not raise the flood elevation or increase discharge of the 100-year flood event. Any of the following will disqualify the potential project in this screening step:
 - Potential project increases inundation on homes or commercial buildings.
 - Potential project increases inundation beyond existing or proposed ROW or easements.
 - Potential project increases inundation beyond existing drainage infrastructure capacity.
- Project details – Data used to define the potential project must include sufficient project details as described in Section 3.9 of TWDB technical guidelines, including but not limited to the following:
 - Flood severity level metrics
 - Flood risk/damage reduction metrics
 - Estimated capital and O&M costs
 - Benefit/Cost ratios
 - Environmental benefits/impacts
 - Implementation constraints
 - Water supply benefits

Step 2-2: Screening of Studies (FMEs):

Flood Management Evaluations, or studies, may fall into one of three general categories:

- Potential projects (FMPs) that did not meet screening criteria Step 2-1.
- Planned flood studies or flood risk reduction alternatives analyses provided by or developed in conjunction with floodplain management communities/project sponsors.
- Potential flood studies or flood risk reduction alternatives analysis needs identified by the technical consultant in Task 4A.

In this step potential studies are screened based on the following criteria from TWDB technical guidelines:

- Potential study must be sensible in that it can be implemented with a reasonable number of resources.
- Potential study must have reasonable planning-level cost estimate.
- Potential study must have willing sponsor(s) identified that are willing to commit resources and some level of potential cost sharing.
- Potential study must identify structures, population, and critical facilities at risk within the flood problem area being studied.
- Potential study must identify roadways impacted by flooding within the flood problem area being studied.
- Potential study must quantify area of farm and ranch land at risk within the study area, if applicable.

If there is sufficiently detailed H&H analysis and flood mitigation alternatives analysis, then the Study may be considered as Project (FMP) or Strategy (FMS)

Step 2-3: Screening of Strategies (FMSs):

Strategies are proposed plans or actions that reduce flood risk or mitigate flood hazards to life or property. Any proposed action that doesn't meet the criteria to qualify as a study or as a project can potentially be considered as a strategy. Strategies can also be flood studies or flood risk reduction alternatives analysis needs that are identified in Task 4A. In general, RFPG has flexibility with what qualifies as Strategies.

In this step, Strategies are screened based on the following criteria from the TWDB technical guidelines:

- Potential strategies must include a planning-level cost estimate.
- Potential strategies must have an identified sponsor(s) that are willing to commit resources and some level of potential cost sharing.
- Potential strategies must quantify the estimated flood risk being addressed and potential level of flood risk reduction.

Step 3: Detailed evaluations of selected Projects, Studies, and Strategies:

In the third step, potential studies, strategies, and projects that meet the criteria in the initial screening processes described in Steps 1 and 2 are to be evaluated further for potential feasibility and must meet the following:

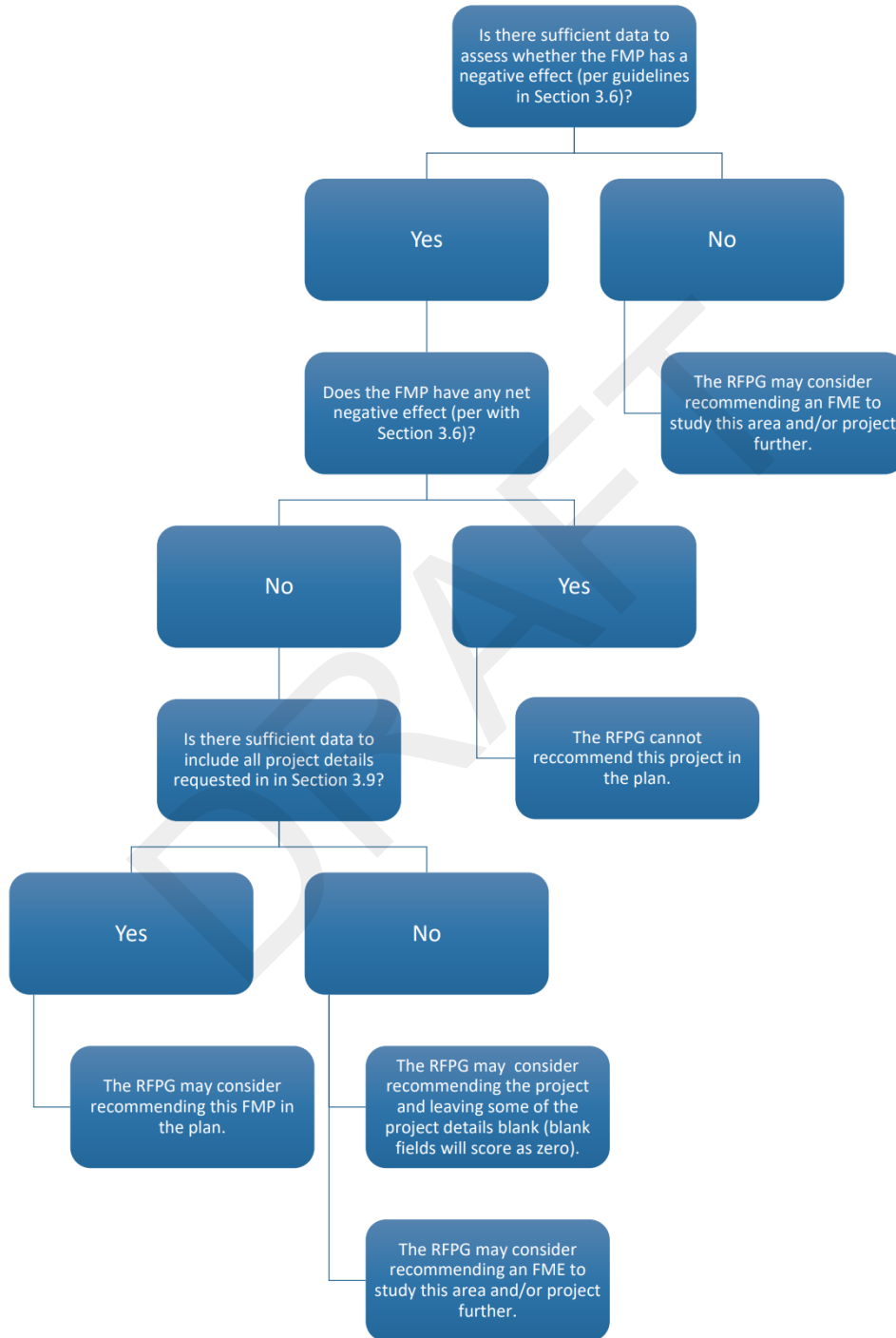
- Potential projects must have an estimated benefit-cost ratio greater than 1.0.
- Potential studies, strategies, and projects must have a willing sponsor(s) that has been verified.
- There must be no known insurmountable implementation constraints or hurdles, such as ROW acquisitions, utility conflicts, and/or permitting issues.

Step 4: Final recommendation of Projects, Studies, and Strategies:

In this final step recommended studies, strategies, and projects are to be incorporated in the initial draft and final regional flood plan. The regional flood plan must also include:

- Public comments and RFPG response on the recommended FMPs, FMEs and FMSs
- Initial and final adoption

Attachment A



RFP Technical Guidelines Figure 5: FMP Flowchart

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