

**Region 10**  
**Lower Colorado-Lavaca**  
**Regional Flood Planning Group**

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**April 19, 2021**

# **Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG**

**1. Call to Order**

**2. Welcome**

**3. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

Meeting Minutes  
 Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca Flood Planning Group Meeting  
 March 29, 2021  
 9:00 AM  
 Zoom Virtual Meeting

**Roll Call:**

Voting Member	Interest Category	Present (x) /Absent ( ) Alternate Present (*)
Terry Been	<i>Agricultural interests</i>	X
Phillip Spenrath	<i>Counties</i>	X
Jason Ludwig	<i>Electric generating utilities</i>	X
Kirby Brown	<i>Environmental interests</i>	X
G. Nicholas "Nick" Textor	<i>Flood districts</i>	X
Brandon Klenzendorf	<i>Industries</i>	X
Matt Hollon	<i>Municipalities</i>	X
Frances Acuña	<i>Public</i>	X
Patrick Brzozowski	<i>River authorities</i>	X
Ann Yakimovicz	<i>Small business</i>	X
Kacey Cubine Paul	<i>Water districts</i>	X
Hank Smith	<i>Water utilities</i>	X
Kelly Payne	<i>River authorities</i>	X

Non-voting Member	Agency	Present(x)/Absent ( ) Alternate Present (*)
Shonda Mace	General Land Office	X
David Galindo	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality	
Lauren Mayes	Texas Department of Agriculture	X
Natalie Johnson	Texas Division of Emergency Management	X
Beth Bendik	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department	X
Allen Nash	Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board	X
Hayley Gillespie	Texas Water Development Board	X
Ronald G. Fieseler	Region 11 – Guadalupe Liaison	X
Mark Vogler	Region 8 – Lower Brazos Liaison	X
Cara Tackett	Region 12 – San Antonio Liaison	X

**Quorum:**

Quorum: **Yes**

Number of voting members or alternates representing voting members present: **13**

Number required for quorum per current voting membership of **13: 7**

**Other Meeting Attendees: \*\***

Carolyn Gibson-Baros	Michael Personett	Mieko Mahi
Cindy Engelhardt	Shannon Longoria	Vince DeCapiro
Cory Shockley	Shelley Rappaport	Morgan White, TWDB
Isabella Baker	Stephen Rockwood	Lauren Graber, LCRA
Jim Carrillo	Laura Raun	Marcin Tyszka, LCRA AV
Karen Ford	Michael Moya	Ashlee Nelson, LCRA
Kathryn Johansen	Jena Hanson	Chris Weema, LCRA
Marissa Williams	Perla Pina	Vic Ramirez, LCRA

**\*\*Meeting attendee names were gathered from those who entered information for joining the Zoom meeting.**

*All meeting materials are available for the public at:*  
[www.lowercoloradolavacaflood.org/meetings](http://www.lowercoloradolavacaflood.org/meetings)

## **Agenda:**

### **1. Call to Order**

Chair Phillip Spenrath called the meeting to order at 9:03am CDT. A roll call of the planning group members was taken to record attendance and a quorum was established prior to calling the meeting to order.

### **2. Welcome**

### **3. Approval of minutes from the previous meeting**

The draft meeting minutes were reviewed and no corrections or additions were made. Patrick Brzozowski moved to approve the minutes, seconded by Kirby Brown. The motion passed by a vote of 13-0.

### **4. Public comments– limit 3 minutes per person**

Chair Phillip Spenrath called for public comments. No public comments were given.

### **5. TWDB Update**

Hayley Gillespie noted the March 31 deadline for the TWDB to execute planning grant contracts with sponsors, including the LCRA.

TWDB needs to review contract between sponsor and technical consultants prior to contract execution and is drafting a checklist of the statutory rules.

Kelly Payne requested an update on the status of the contract between TWDB and the sponsor.

Technical guidance documents were publicly posted a week and a half ago for public comment by April 1.

Link to technical guidance:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/planningdocu/2023/index.asp>

### **6. Update, discussion, and action concerning the technical consultant procurement for Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG**

#### **a. Update and discussion of responses to the RFQ**

Lauren Graber described the RFQ process. The RFQ was posted on February 11, closed on March 8, and the full RFPG previously delegated the review of the RFQ responses to the Executive Committee. She explained that Kelly Payne,

although a member of the Executive Committee, did not submit scores due to his involvement as LCRA's sponsor for the RFQ. She outlined the evaluation criteria, which was based on four factors: firm experience; personnel experience; project approach; and exceptions to the draft contract terms and conditions. Responses to the RFQ were submitted by Halff Associates, Inc. and Scheibe Consulting, LLC. The scores provided by the scoring team were averaged and Halff Associates, Inc. had the highest score. The Halff Associates, Inc. team includes Halff Associates, Inc. as prime, with HDR, Freese and Nichols, and Water PR as sub-consultants.

**b. Discuss a recommendation from the Executive Committee for the selection of a technical consultant**

The Executive Committee met on March 25 and voted to recommend to the full Planning Group that Halff Associates, Inc., which scored highest, be selected as the technical consultant. Chair Spenrath clarified that this was only a recommendation and that the Planning Group was free to choose another consultant or idea, if it followed procedures.

**c. Consider the selection of a technical consultant to provide services in conjunction with the development of a regional flood plan for the Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG**

Kirby Brown moved to select Halff Associates, Inc., seconded by Patrick Brzozowski.

The motion passed by a vote of 13-0.

**d. Consider authorizing the Region 10 RFPG Sponsor to negotiate and execute a contract with the selected firm to provide technical consulting services in conjunction with the development of a regional flood plan**

Kacey Paul moved to authorize the sponsor to negotiate and execute a contract with Halff Associates, Inc. to serve as the technical consultant, seconded by Patrick Brzozowski.

The motion passed by a vote of 13-0.

**7. Update from Planning Group Sponsor regarding status of Regional Flood Planning Grant contract with the TWDB**

Lauren Graber said that LCRA was working with TWDB to execute a contract by March 31, on track to meet the deadline, and then could negotiate with the technical consultant.

**8. Pre-Planning Public Input – Public input regarding suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies that should be considered during the flood planning cycle and/or input on the development of the regional flood plan (as required per Texas Water Code §16.062(d) and 31 Texas Administrative Code §361.12(a)(4))**

**a. TWDB Presentation**

TWDB staff offered to present the same informational presentation as they gave the previous meeting. Chair Spenrath asked if anyone wished to see a refresher viewing. No requests were made and no presentation was given. The

informational PowerPoint slides were provided in the backup materials for reference.

**b. Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker**

Mike Personett with Halff Associates noted that he, if his firm came under contract, would serve as project manager for the project. He noted that part of the proposed approach would be to conduct early on through this calendar year an extensive discovery phase (1<sup>st</sup> phase) by collecting all info (data, studies) and contacting all stakeholders through the basin, e.g., counties, municipalities and regulatory districts. This would commence as soon as they have a contract and Notice to Proceed.

Mieko Mahi asked that Hallettsville's problems with catastrophic flooding not be left out of the Plan. She said that Hallettsville needed a river engineer to advise community on what needs to be done. The community flooded in the 1940s and 1980s and such major flooding was expected again. She said mitigation measures are needed to protect the courthouse and other assets. She urged that flood managers and soil conservationists and others all work together to both manage flooding and conserve natural resources for people, wildlife, and water.

Ann Yakimovicz asked that local planning commissions and local officials be included in the development of the Regional Flood Plan. She said this would be appropriate for future planning that their input to be included. These groups could help create new local ordinances in support of the flood plan.

Frances Acuña noted that it would be hard to reach out to all the communities in Region 10. She did reach out to several individuals who said they were losing crops along creeks due to development and that this was worsening every year since the development continues. She said most small towns had few drainage regulations. She will try to encourage these communities to speak in future RFPG meetings. She said she will try to have more conversations via Facebook, though it has been difficult to date since many do not have community groups. She noted the possibility of reaching out to Fire Departments and constables who head their communities' disaster preparedness.

**9. Public comments— limit 3 minutes per person**

Chair Spenrath called for public comments. No public comments were given.

**10. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting**

Chair Spenrath set the next meeting for April 19, 2021, at 9am.

Chair Spenrath noted that a third pre-planning public input agenda item would be included on the April agenda.

The group discussed having the kickoff meeting with the technical consultants at the May meeting.

Lauren Graber noted that the General Land Office (GLO) had requested an agenda item to present on flood projects and asked that this be added to the April meeting agenda.

Hayley Gillespie said that the TWDB did not plan to present at the next meeting, but that she/TWDB could answer questions if needed.

Ann Yakimovicz asked about how to facilitate coordination with the other regions. Lauren Graber said that she would add a standing item in subsequent meetings to enable liaisons to report on any coordination with other regions.

## **11. Adjourn**

Ann Yakimovicz moved to adjourn, seconded by Kacey Paul.  
The motion passed by a vote of 13-0.  
The meeting was adjourned at 9:40am.

*Approved by the Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG at a meeting held on **DATE**.*

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Matt Hollon, SECRETARY

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Phillip Spenrath, CHAIR

# **Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG**

**4. Public comments – limit 3 minutes per person**

**5. TWDB Update**

**6. Update from RFPG liaisons**

**7. Update from the Planning Group Sponsor**



# **Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG**

- 8. Pre-Planning Public Input – Public input regarding suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies that should be considered during the flood planning cycle and/or input on the development of the regional flood plan (as required per Texas Water Code §16.062(d) and 31 Texas Administrative Code §361.12(a)(4))**
  - a. TWDB Presentation
  - b. Public Comments (Public comments limited to 3 minutes per speaker)

# Regional Flood Planning Pre-Planning Public Meeting Requirements

# Pre-Planning Meeting Background

- Provide background on formation of RFPGs and the Regional Flood Planning process.
- Gather suggestions and recommendations as to issues, provisions, projects, and strategies that should be considered in development of regional flood plan.



TWDB flood outreach meeting in Bastrop, TX.

Image: TWDB

# About Regional Flood Planning

- First-of-its-kind statewide flood plan
- Watershed-based planning regions
- Bottom-up approach to flood planning
- Transparent process with public input
- Volunteer members representing interest categories

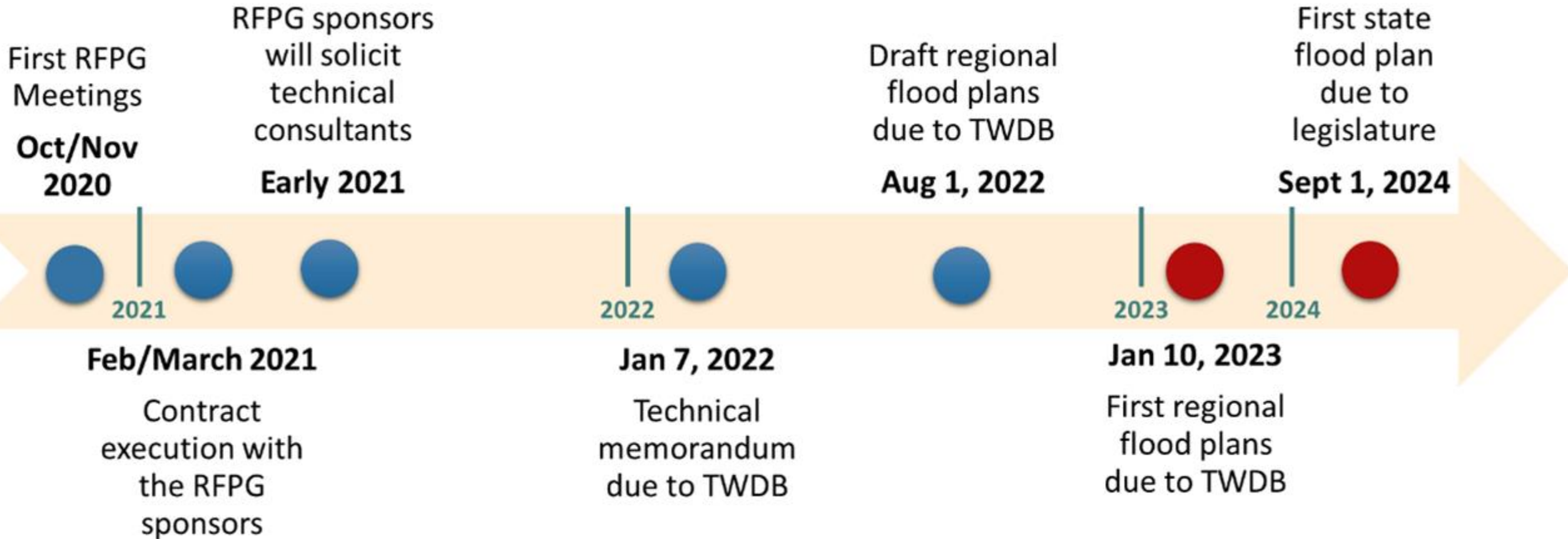


Find your RFRG Information, Meeting Schedules & Important Documents here:

<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/index.asp>

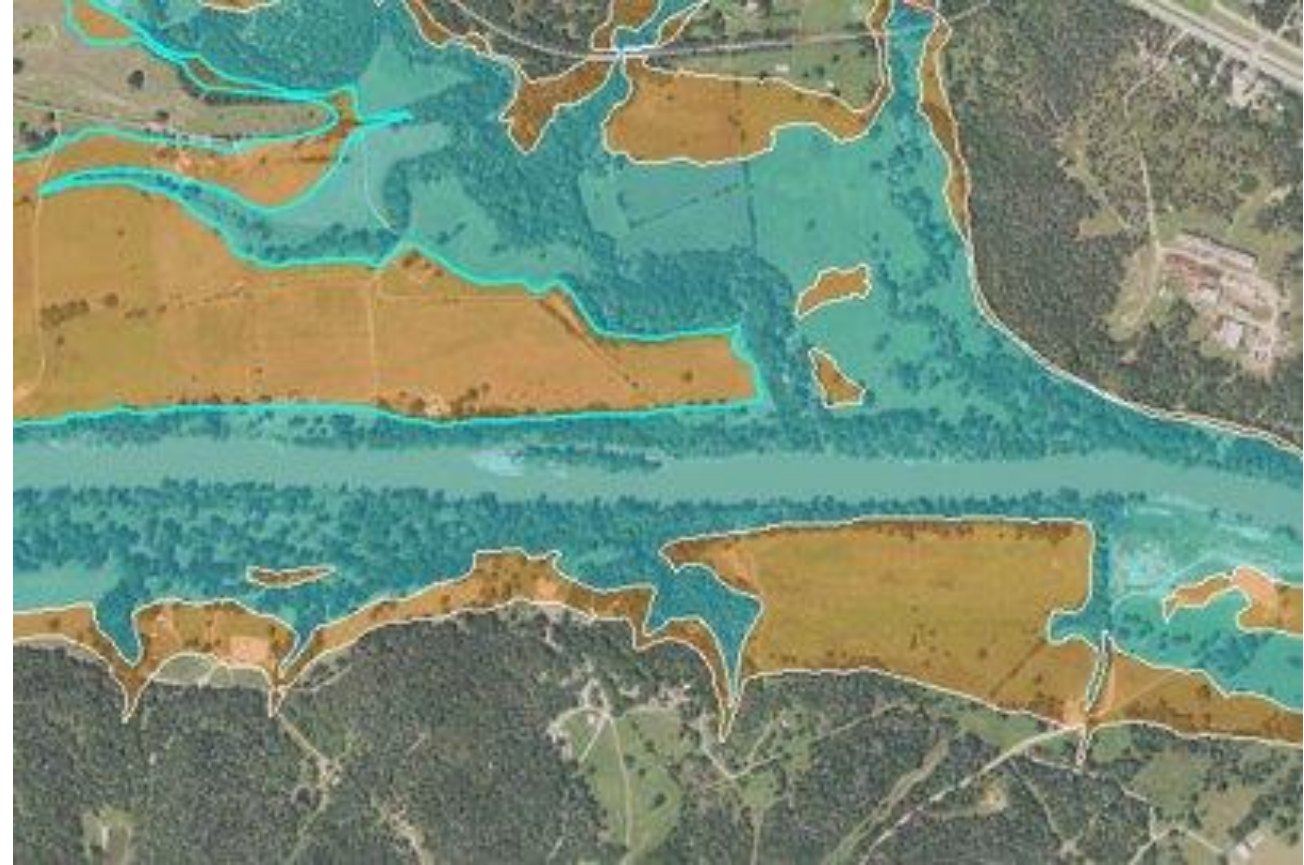
# Flood Planning Timeline

SB 8 passed in 2019 requiring a statewide flood plan based on regional flood plans



# Key Tasks of the RFPGs

- Gather & analyze data
- Identify existing and future flood risks
- Evaluate floodplain management practices
- Recommend evaluations, strategies, and projects to reduce flood risks
- Develop a regional flood plan



The 1% annual chance floodplain is shown in blue.  
The 0.2% annual chance floodplain is shown in orange.  
Image by FEMA

# Flood Mitigation

The implementation of actions, including both **structural** and **non-structural solutions**, to reduce flood risk to protect against the loss of life and property.



Mangroves on the Texas Coast stabilize shorelines and help absorb storm surge; an example of a non-structural flood mitigation solution.

Photo by Univ. Of Texas Marine Science Institute



Galveston Seawall, a structural flood mitigation solution. Image by [Yinan Chen CC-PD](#)

# Additional Opportunities for Public Input

There will be many opportunities public involvement:

- public comments are received at every RFPG meeting
- there will be at least one meeting for the public to comment on a flood risk summary map to identify any flood risk not captured
- there will be at least two public pre-planning meetings to receive feedback and gather general suggestions
- the public will get to comment on the draft regional flood plan, once developed



TWDB flood outreach meeting in Bastrop, TX.

Image: TWDB

**Find your RFPG Information, Meeting Schedules & Important Documents here:**

**<https://www.twdb.texas.gov/flood/planning/index.asp>**





Image: Brent Hanson, U.S. Geological Survey. Public domain.

# Questions? Comments?

# **Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG**

**9. Discussion regarding upcoming kick-off meeting with technical consultant**

**10. Presentation and discussion regarding General Land Office flood studies**



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# **Texas General Land Office**

Community Development and Revitalization (GLO-CDR)

## **Flood Studies within Combined River Basins Study Overview**

# Agenda



1. Introduction of the Study and Team
2. Study Timeline and Approach
3. Coordinating Our Approaches
4. Identification of Project Funding
5. Next Steps
6. Q&A

# Study Overview

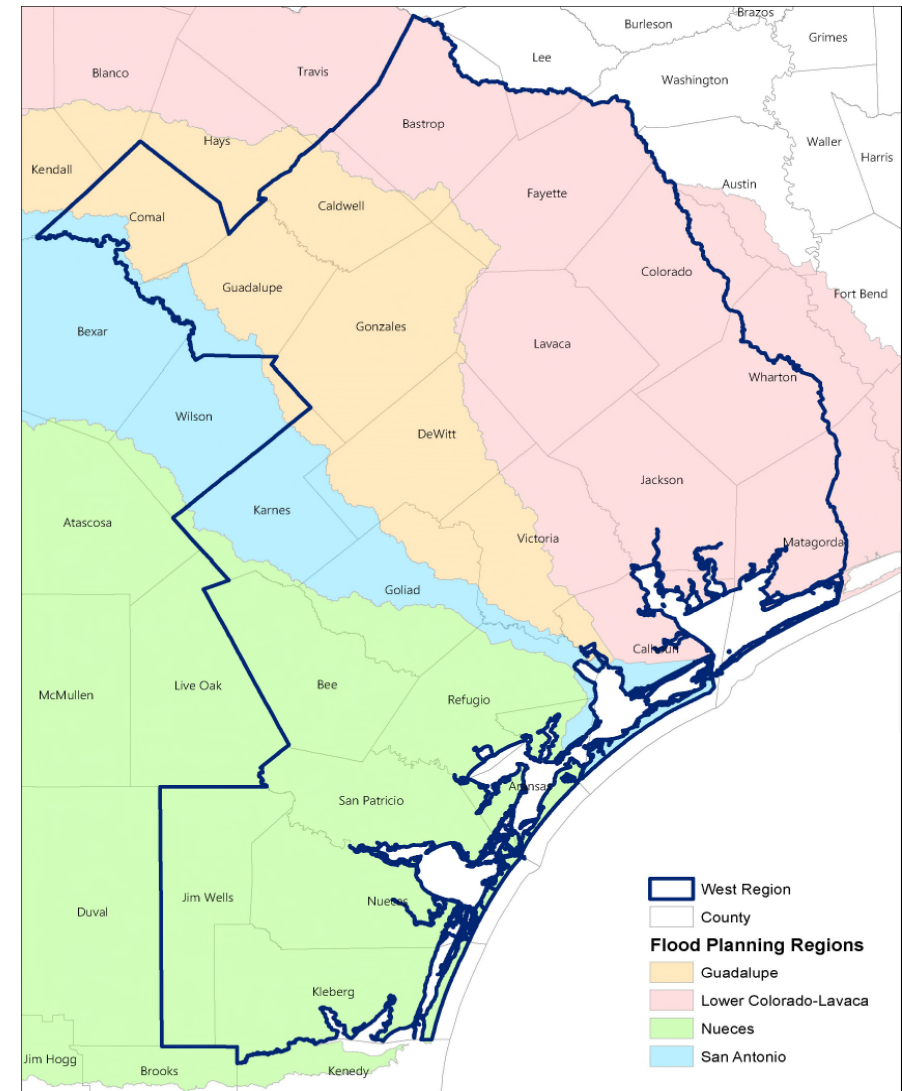


## Goals

- Evaluate flood risks
- Develop cost-effective flood mitigation strategies
- Identify funding sources for mitigation projects

## Benefits

- Collect local data and detailed flood risk information building on data and projects you may have already identified
- Support planning and feasibility studies for local and regional risk reduction projects
- Increase community disaster resilience



# GLO-CDR Planning Team



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# Delivery Partners



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FEMA



# Strategic Framework



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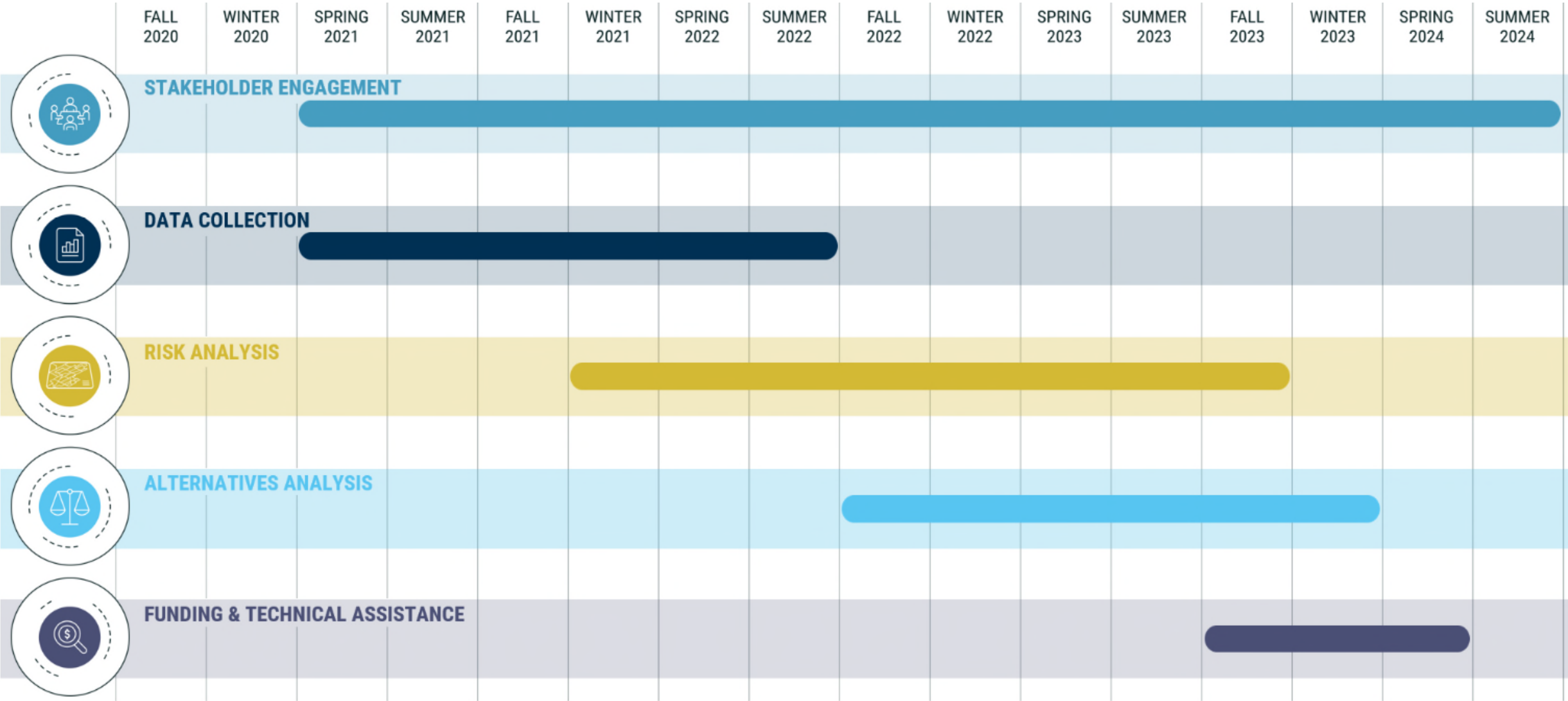




# Study Timeline



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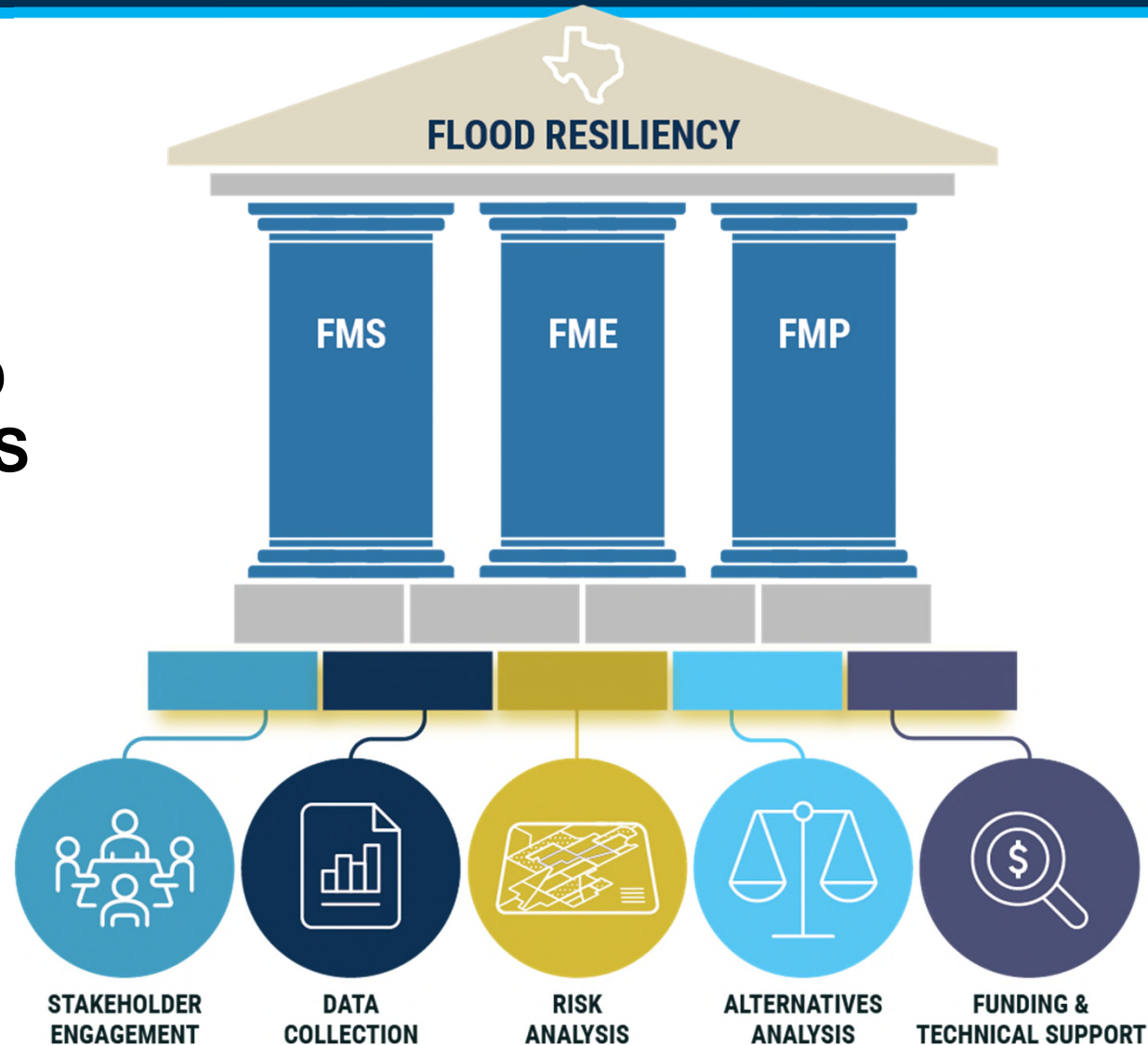
# A Coordinated Approach



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REGIONAL FLOOD  
PLANNING GROUPS

RIVER BASIN  
FLOOD STUDY



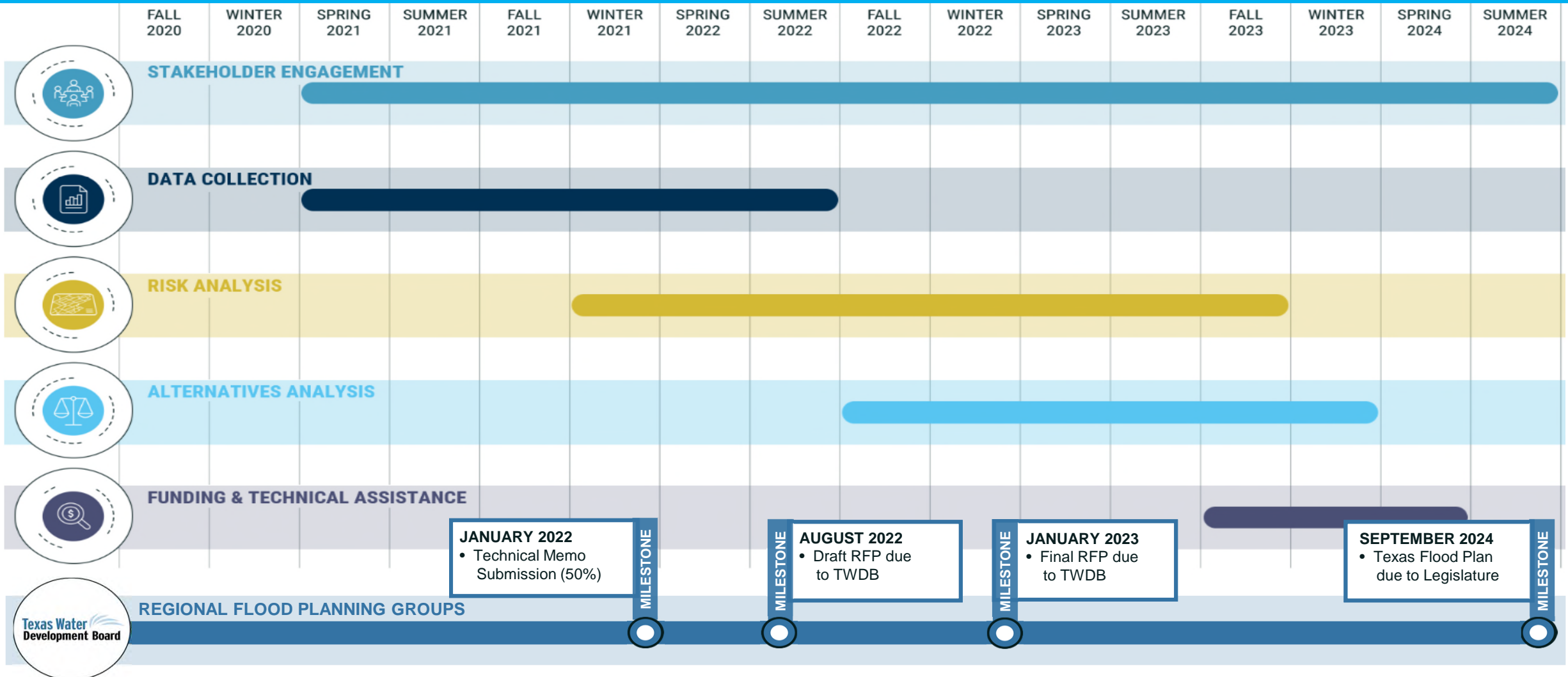
ACRONYMS

- FMS: Flood Management Strategies
- FME: Flood Management Evaluations
- FMP: Flood Mitigation Projects

# Study Timeline: RFPG Support



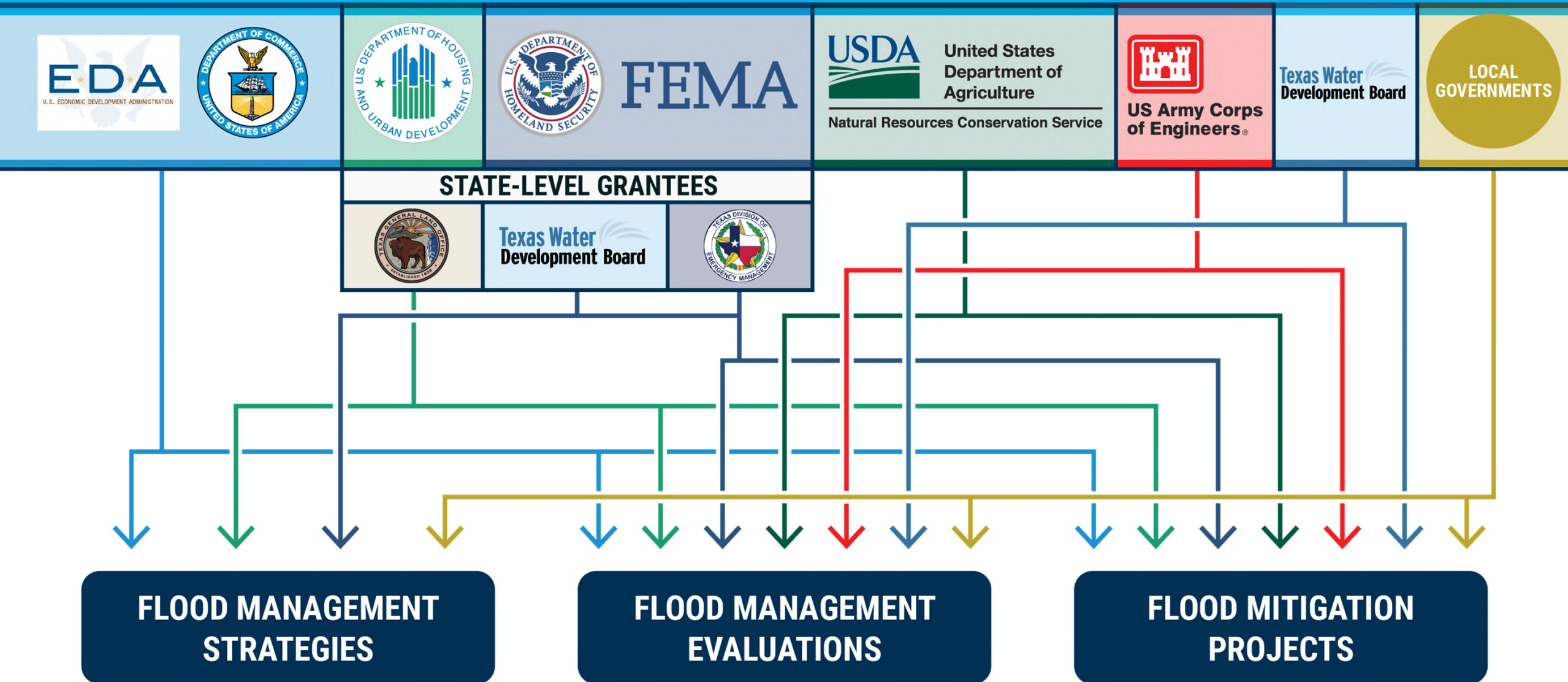
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# Identification of Project Funding



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# Texas Disaster Information System (TDIS)



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- Data and information produced by the GLO's Combined River Basin Flood Studies program will inform TDIS.
- TDIS will house critical flood risk information through an accessible online dashboard to support preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation for Texas.
- Provides users with the most current and accurate information available to assess related disaster risks, impacts, and mitigation strategies.
- Texas A&M University Systems (TAMUS) will house the disaster database.

# Next Outreach Steps



- **Kickoff Workshops** - We have begun conducting kickoff workshops with stakeholders to introduce the study.
- **Introductory Survey** - We have launched a survey to engage community stakeholders and experts to begin data collection and to identify gaps in the flood-related resources currently available to local governments.

Questions?



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# **Western Region Outreach Team**

[GLOfloodstudies.west@recovery.texas.gov](mailto:GLOfloodstudies.west@recovery.texas.gov)



# **Region 10 Lower Colorado-Lavaca RFPG**

**11. Public comments– limit 3 minutes per person**

**12. Consider date and agenda items for next meeting**

**13. Adjourn**