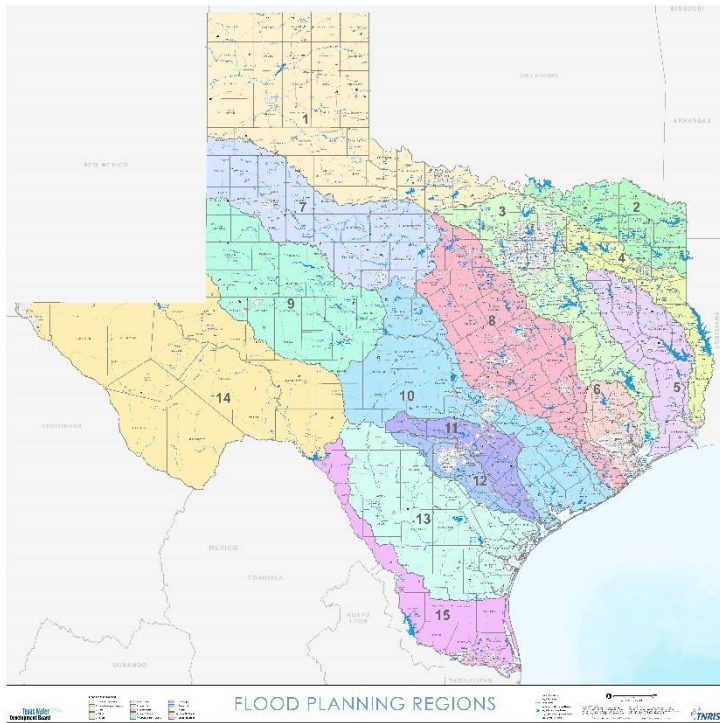


# Opportunities to conserve land and riparian areas through the Regional Flood Planning Process



Presentation to the Hill Country Land Conservation Team  
December 15, 2020  
By Annalisa Peace  
and Deborah Reid

**GEAA** Greater  
Edwards  
Aquifer  
Alliance



**In 2019 the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature passed  
H.J.R. No. 4 - A JOINT RESOLUTION**

proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the flood infrastructure fund to assist in the financing of drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects.

**HB. 13 – A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT**

relating to flood planning, mitigation, and infrastructure projects; making an appropriation.

Sec. 15.533. FLOOD INFRASTRUCTURE FUND. (a) The flood infrastructure fund is a special fund in the state treasury outside the general revenue fund.

Sec. 15.531 Defines projects eligible for funding to include (2) "Flood project" means a drainage, flood mitigation, or flood control project, including: ...(D) construction and implementation of nonstructural projects, including projects that use nature-based features to protect, mitigate, or reduce flood risk. This allows for investing in green space, land use practices, riparian zones, and other means to prevent flooding.

According to the TWDB's *2020 Flood Intended Use Plan* FIF rules allow for a wide range of flood projects, including structural and nonstructural projects as well as nature-based solutions. Examples include the following:

- Sustainable infrastructure
- Nonstructural flood mitigation
- Erosion control
- Property acquisitions determined to be the best solution for highest-risk properties
- Restoration of riparian corridors, floodplains, coastal areas, wetlands, etc.
- Natural erosion and runoff control

## **Prioritize Conservation and Sound Land Management**

Description: Conservation and sound land management are essential nature-based tools to mitigate flooding. Land that is not developed, but conserved, can provide natural flood mitigation benefits by capturing water and allowing it to infiltrate into the ground. This reduces runoff and alleviates strain on traditional drainage systems and other flood infrastructure during flooding events. Conservation efforts can be achieved through various mechanisms such as fee simple land acquisition or conservation easements. Further, sound land management techniques enhance the land's potential to provide flood mitigation benefits. Examples of sound land management techniques include connecting greenspaces to increase the ability of open areas to capture and store water and prioritizing land acquisitions around key areas such as bayous to reduce downstream flooding.

### **Example Funding:**

- TWDB Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF) & Texas Infrastructure Resiliency Fund (TIRF)
- TWDB Drinking and Clean Water State Revolving Funds (SRFs)
- HUD Community Development Block Grants – Mitigation (MIT) & Disaster Recovery (DR)
- FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Program (BRIC) & Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP)

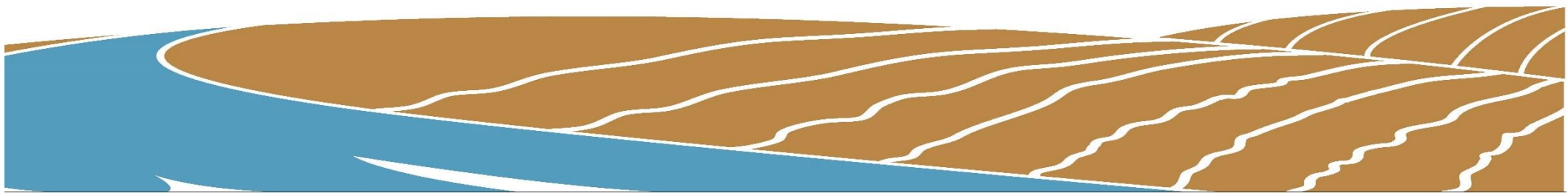
Texas is embarking on a novel regional and statewide flood planning process that will determine which flood mitigation strategies can be funded with state dollars. Natural infrastructure\* is an eligible project category under these new flood mitigation programs, and this approach needs to be prioritized and prominently featured as projects and strategies in the regional and state flood plans.

In total, the TWDB has approved \$770 million in funding for structural and nonstructural flood projects.

\$231 million (30 percent) is allocated to grants and

\$539 million (70 percent) is allocated to loans with a zero percent interest rate.

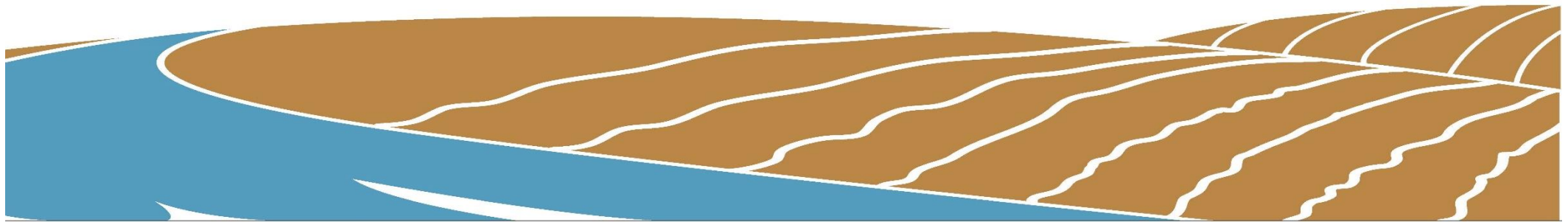
\*Natural infrastructure refers to natural and nature-based systems – for example, wetlands, prairies, bioswales, and natural floodplains – that provide essential services and benefits to society, including flood protection.



The TWDB has adopted agency rules and designated the 15 flood planning regions. The overarching goal of regional flood planning, and the comprehensive state flood plan that will rely on the plans created by these regions, is to protect against loss of life and property from flooding.

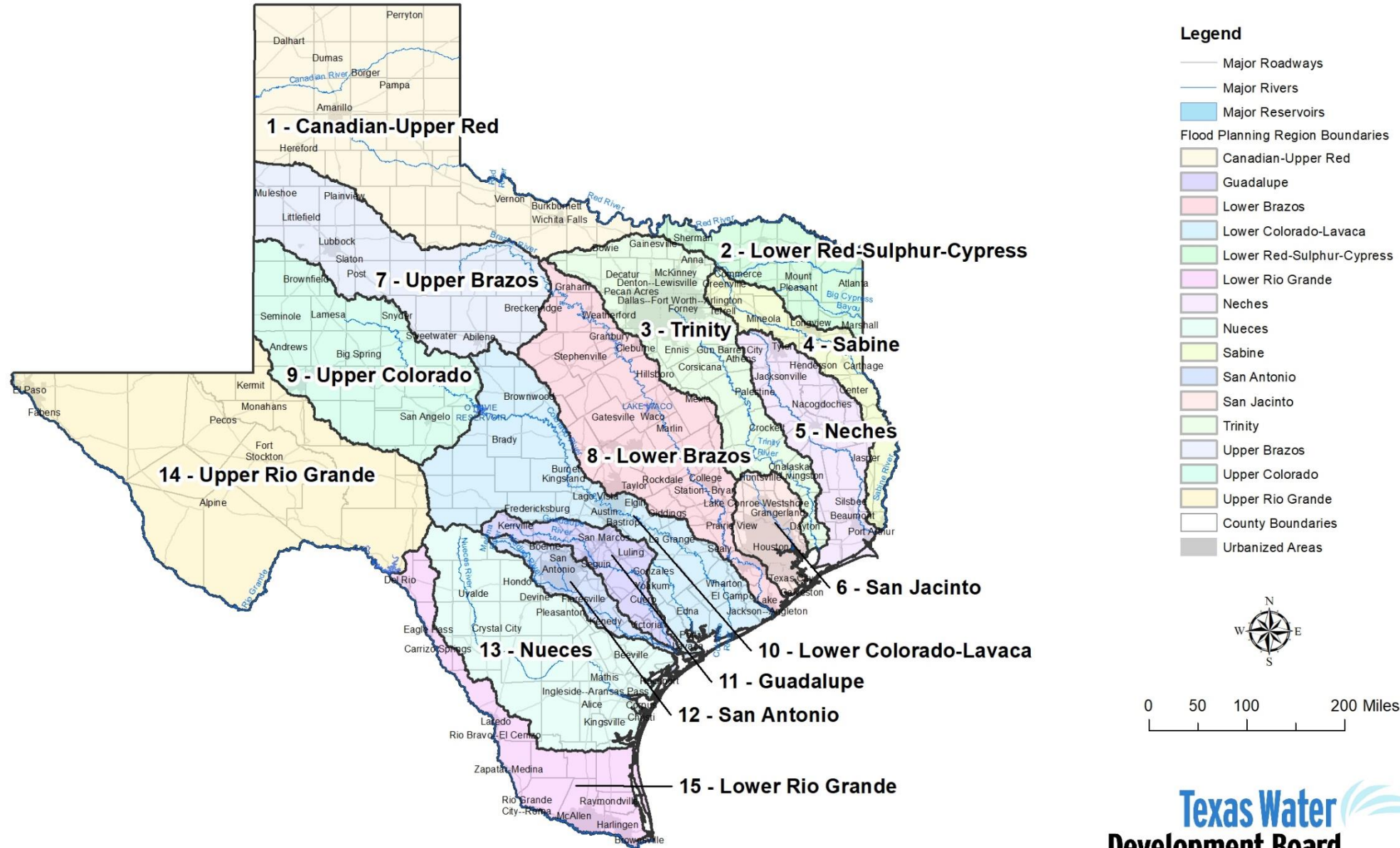
The planning groups will each be responsible for adopting its first regional flood plan no later than January 10, 2023, and every five years thereafter. The state flood plan, to be developed by TWDB based on adopted regional plans, will be due September 1, 2024, and every five years thereafter.

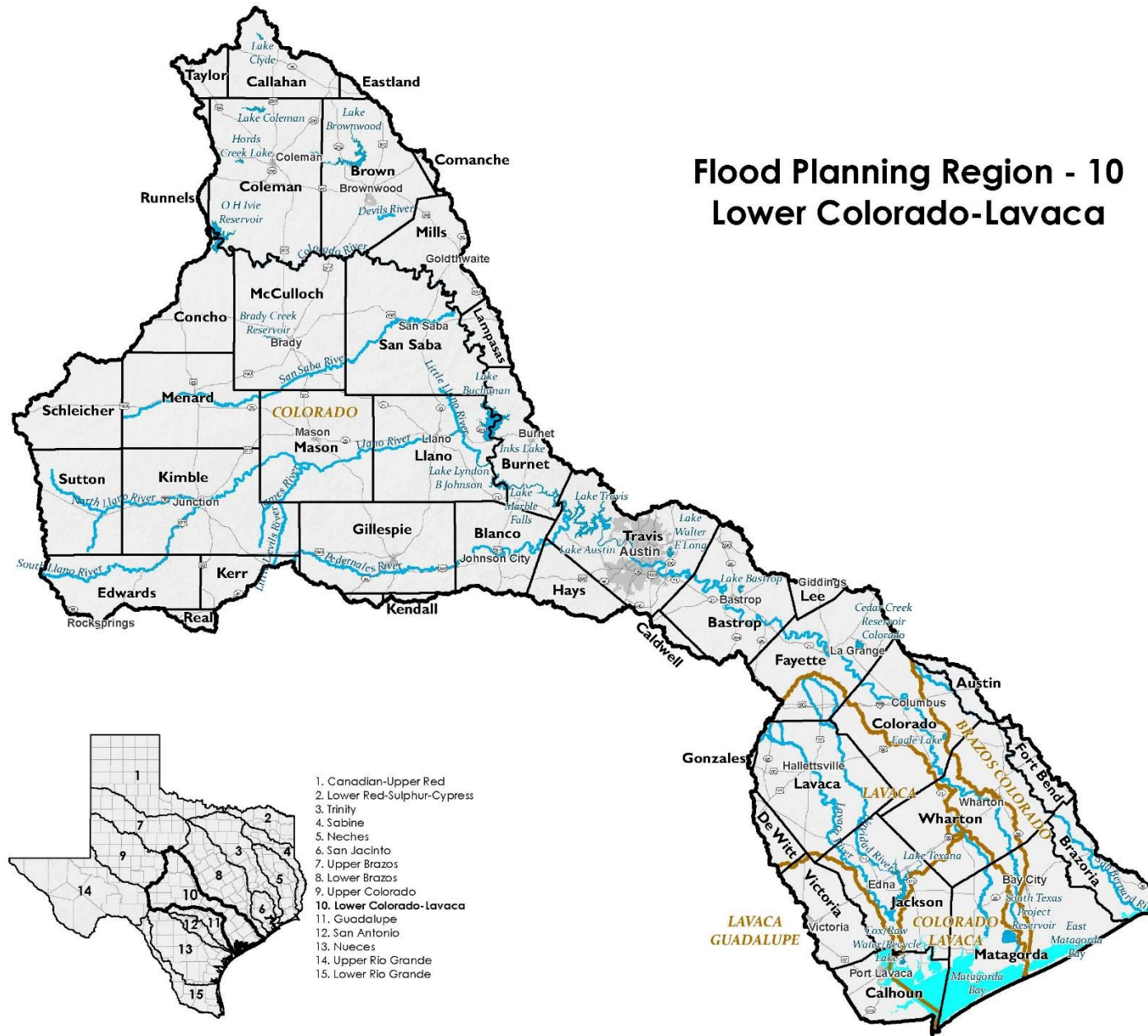
Central to the regional flood planning effort will be identifying short- and long-term flood mitigation and floodplain management goals; flood risk evaluation needs; flood management strategies; and flood mitigation projects.





# Flood Planning Region Boundaries





**Amount Allocated - \$1,373,700**

**Representatives**

**Environmental: Kirby Brown**

**Public: Frances Acuna**

DISCLAIMER: This map was generated by the Texas Water Development Board using GIS (Geographical Information System) software. No claims are made to the accuracy or completeness of the information shown herein nor to its suitability for a particular use. The scale and location of all mapped data are approximate. Map date: 05/01/2020

County boundaries  
Major river basin boundaries  
Major roads

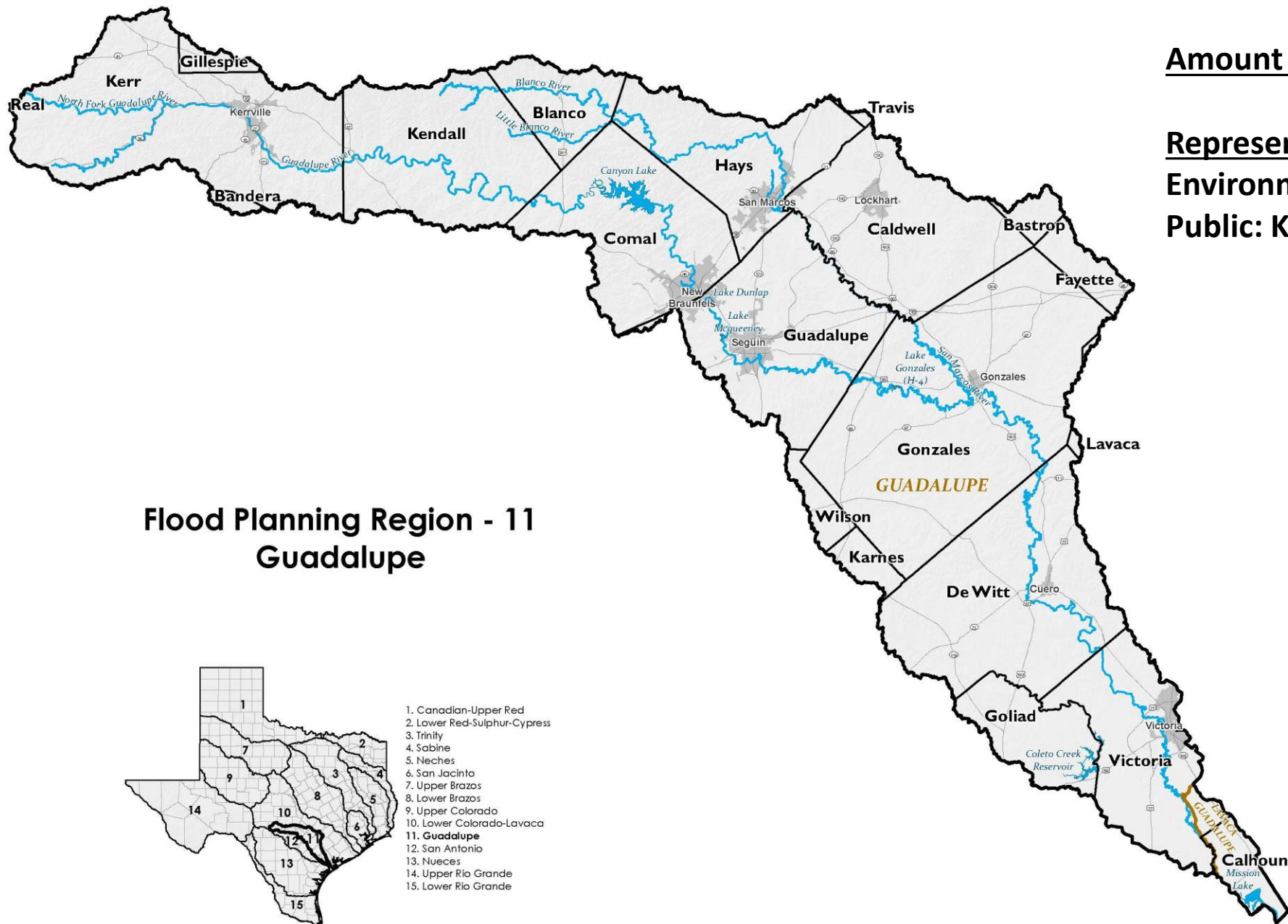
Major reservoirs  
Major rivers  
County seats

0 20 Miles

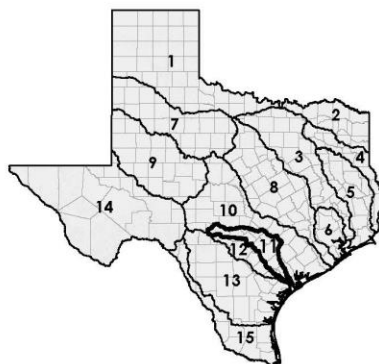
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## Flood Planning Region - 11 Guadalupe



1. Canadian-Upper Red
2. Lower Red-Sulphur-Cypress
3. Trinity
4. Sabine
5. Neches
6. San Jacinto
7. Upper Brazos
8. Lower Brazos
9. Upper Colorado
10. Lower Colorado-Lavaca
11. Guadalupe
12. San Antonio
13. Nueces
14. Upper Rio Grande
15. Lower Rio Grande

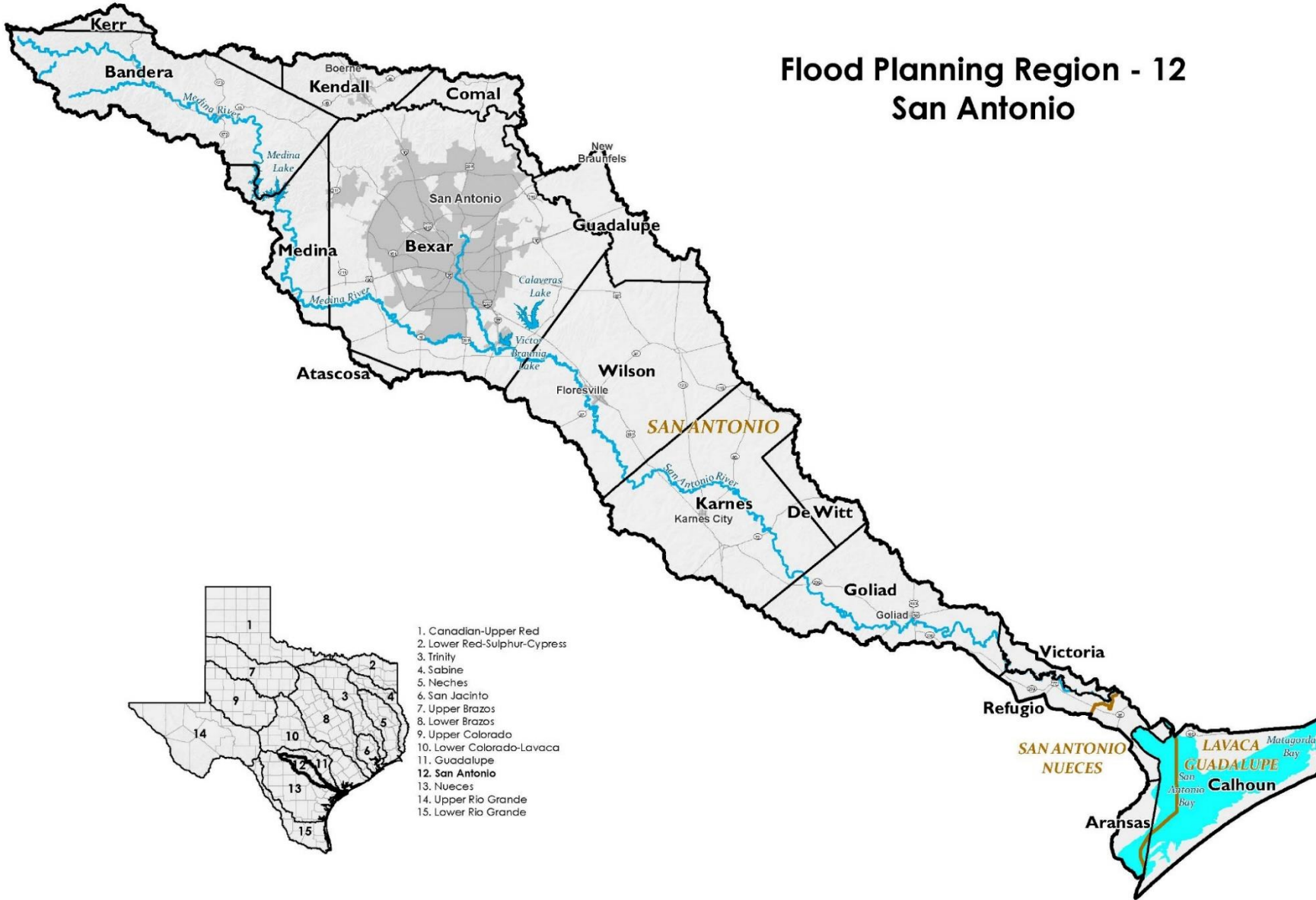
**Amount Allocated - \$961,300**

### **Representatives**

**Environmental: Annalisa Peace (GEAA)**

**Public: Kimberley Meitzen (TSU)**





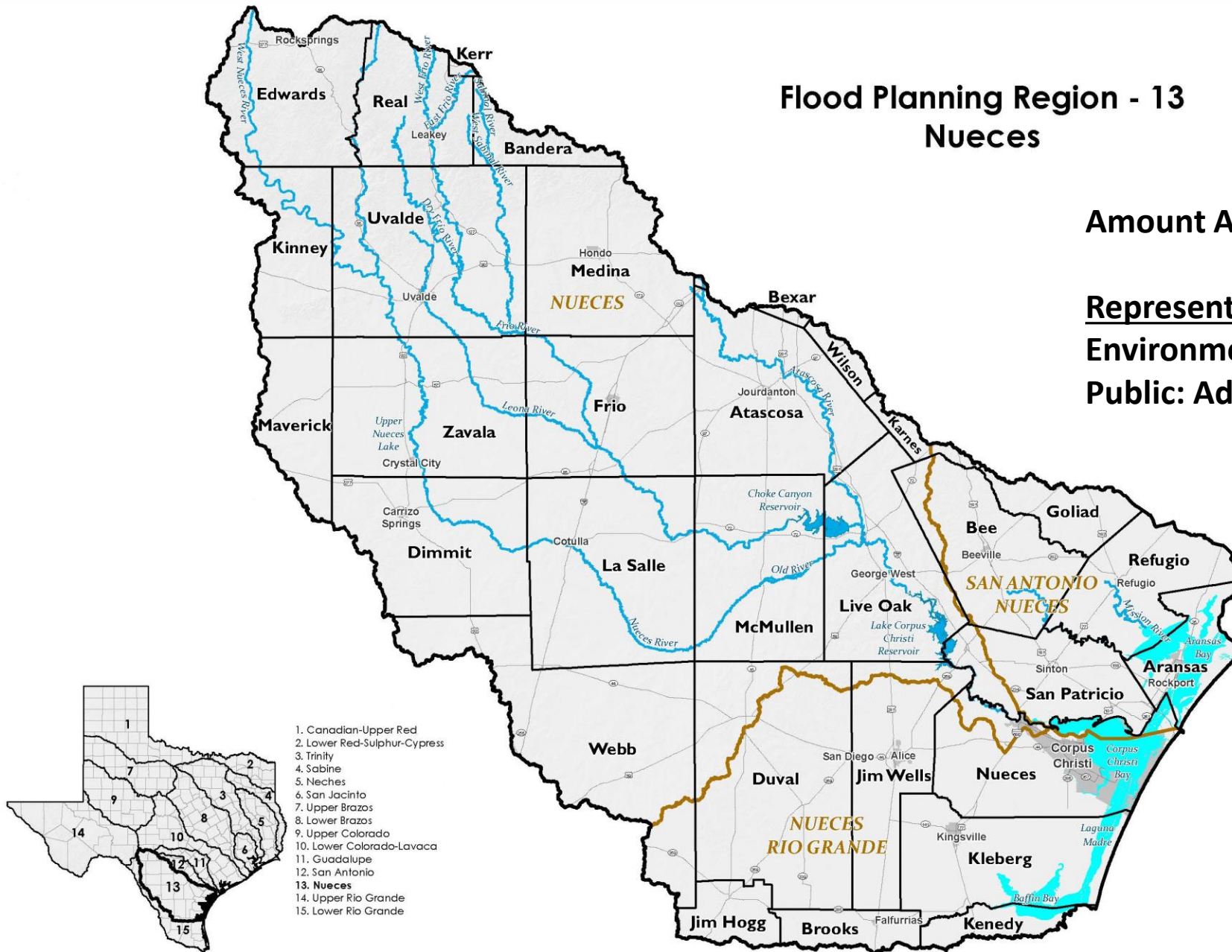
## Flood Planning Region - 13 Nueces

Amount Allocated - \$1,143,700

### Representatives

Environmental: Lauren Hutch Williams

Public: Adnan Rajib



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County boundaries  
Major river basin boundaries  
Major roadways

Major reservoirs  
Major rivers  
County seats

0 20  
Miles

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Texas Water  
Development Board

**Within the next two months, the RFPG's will be deciding on:**

- **future presentations related to flood planning efforts to inform group members**
- **Procuring a technical consultant**

*Suggestions are welcome*

GEAA will be convening Zoom meetings for all interested parties and stakeholders for the Guadalupe and San Antonio sections. GEAA will also send out updates for these regions.

Interested parties should send contact information to [Marina@AquiferAlliance.org](mailto:Marina@AquiferAlliance.org)

Please put RFPG in the subject line and indicate either Guadalupe, San Antonio, or both.

You can contact

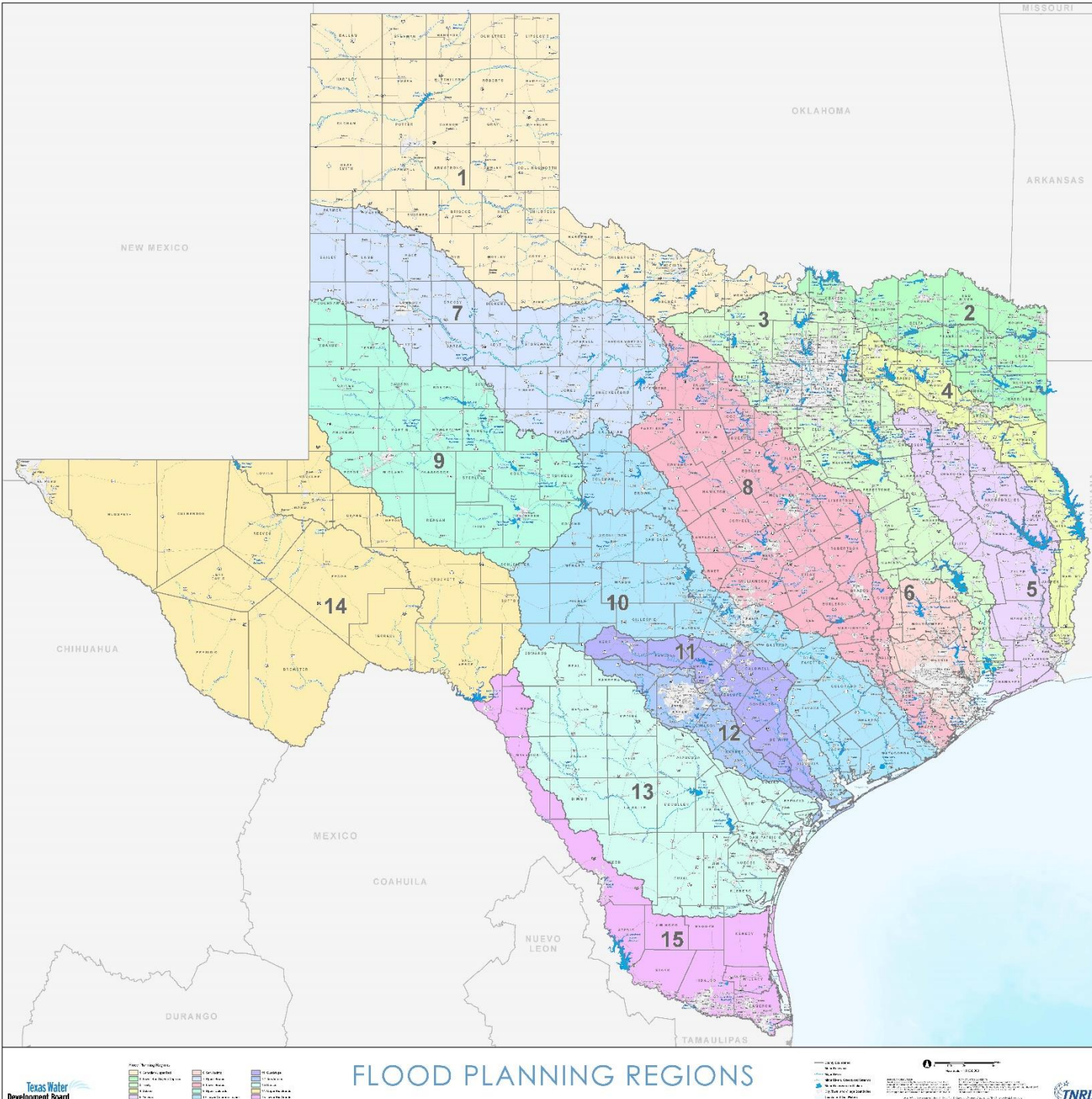
Annalisa at [Annalisa@AquiferAlliance.org](mailto:Annalisa@AquiferAlliance.org) – Guadalupe

Debbie at [Deborah@AquiferAlliance.org](mailto:Deborah@AquiferAlliance.org) – San Antonio

**You can find a list of seated members of all RFPG's at**

**[file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/MembersList%20\(1\).pdf](file:///C:/Users/Owner/Downloads/MembersList%20(1).pdf)**





**Questions???**

**Discussion???**

**Thank you!**