**At the end of the Second Special Session of the 89th Texas Legislature, several critical flood-related bills were left unfinished. **We hope to see these issues studied between now and the 90th Legislative Session and taken up again during the 90th.**

* [HB 2](https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=892&Bill=HB2) would have outlined and required major improvements to state and local government coordination and response during and after disaster events.
* [HB 3](https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=892&Bill=HB3) would have provided funding and resources to local governments to upgrade their disaster response programs and to ensure coordination with other entities.
* [SB 2](https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=892&Bill=SB2) would have outlined and required major improvements to state and local government coordination and response during and after disaster events.
* [HB 108/SB 45](https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=892&Bill=HB108) would have allowed counties to establish drainage utilities, charge drainage fees, and regulate land use for flood management and flood infrastructure. Counties are not currently able to do so, restricting their ability to properly address flood impacts or build and maintain appropriate infrastructure.
* [HB 117](https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=892&Bill=HB117) would have authorized counties to regulate impervious cover to address flood management in unincorporated areas of the county. Counties are not currently allowed to do so, leading to inappropriate development and downstream impacts.
* [HB 125](https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=892&Bill=HB125) would have authorized counties to fully meet all stormwater management permitting requirements. Counties are currently restricted in their ability to implement stormwater management programs, leading to increased flooding impacts and inappropriate development.
* [HB 225](https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=892&Bill=HB225) would have authorized counties to be able to implement higher building codes and standards in unincorporated areas of the county. Counties are currently restricted to the 2006 International Building Code, even as cities are able to build to a more recent and more effective code and standards, placing residents in counties at risk of flooding impacts.

**We would also like to see legislation that accomplishes the following goals:**

* Update Chapter 232.00315 of the Local Government Code to require counties to have stricter flood standards for new developments and improvements in the 500-year floodplain (*By an order adopted and entered in the minutes of the commissioners court, and after notice is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the county, the commissioners court shall adopt all flood protection aspects of the 2021 International Building Code and International Residential Code for all new development and substantial improvements within a 500-year floodplain to minimize and prevent flooding.)*
	+ Counties are exceedingly limited under state law to implement regulations and ordinances that adequately protect residents in unincorporated areas of the county from the risks and impacts of flooding. This bill would allow them to adopt updated building codes that can protect residents and structures.
* Update Chapter 16.316 of the Texas Water Code to allow the Texas Water Development Board to provide guidance and recommendations to the Federal Emergency Management Agency on floodplain map exclusions or revision requests.
	+ TWDB mapping and data efforts highlight risk at a greater level than FEMA does and has a better understanding of not just the risk, but also of the region and river basins. TWDB should be allowed to weigh in on and provide FEMA recommendations as to whether a requested exemption from the FEMA floodplain map should be approved.

See our recent presentation on Texas floodplain management and legislative developments here: <https://aquiferalliance.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/Floodplain-Sierra-Club-Presentation-1.pdf>.