

Section 1 - Introduction

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Background

The Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition (TCRFC or Coalition) is a non-profit, 501 (c)(3) organization formed in June 2001 by the cities and counties of the Lower Colorado River Basin as a result of flood devastation requiring more coordinated damage prevention efforts. The Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA) formed the organization based on input gathered from a series of meetings held throughout the basin. Although the Coalition is directed by an Executive Committee comprised of county judges, officials, mayors and council members, the LCRA provides technical support to the Coalition and has been integral in the planning effort.

The mission of the Coalition is to: “encourage comprehensive, consistent management of the floodplain along the Colorado River and its tributaries; provide a forum for data exchange; and facilitate a structured approach to managing the complex issues related to floodplain management.”

The TCRFC is dedicated to preventing damage before a disaster occurs. To this end, the Coalition strives to coordinate state and federal programs, promote public awareness and provide training for stakeholders and local officials. In 2004 the Coalition developed a Hazard Mitigation Action Plan (HMAP), approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in 2004 entitled, “*Creating a Disaster Resistant Lower Colorado River Basin.*” This HMAP was formed with technical assistance provided by LCRA and H2O Partners, Inc. of Austin, Texas. The Coalition is committed to preventing damage before disaster strikes rather than responding to disaster damage. With the motto, “Working Together Makes Sense,” the Coalition is creating a disaster-resistant Lower Colorado River Basin.

TCRFC Mission Statement

Encourage comprehensive, consistent management of the floodplain along the Colorado River and its tributaries; provide a forum for data exchange; and facilitate a structured approach to managing the complex issues related to floodplain

The mitigation planning regulation of the Disaster Mitigation Act requires that mitigation plans be reviewed and revised within five (5) years of approval to maintain eligibility for mitigation grant

funding¹. Because FEMA approved the initial HMAP for the Coalition in 2004, the Coalition received a Hazard Mitigation Grant in 2008 to complete an update for the 2004 plan. This Hazard Mitigation Action Plan Update (hereinafter “Plan” or “Plan Update”) was prepared by the Coalition, LCRA, H2O Partners, Inc., and subcontractor PBS&J. It is an opportunity for Coalition members to evaluate successful mitigation actions and explore opportunities to avoid future disaster loss. In addition, this Plan update provides an opportunity for more communities to join the Coalition as well as develop mitigation actions for those communities that joined the TCRFC since 2004.

Since its inception in 2001, the TCRFC has expanded, gaining more members each year, with a total of sixty-four (64) members to date. Communities are organized geographically into four regions (See Table 1-1). These member communities attend annual meetings and have access to resources through the Coalition’s website, www.tcrfc.org.

Scope

The focus of the Plan Update is to mitigate those hazards classified as “high” or “moderate” risk as determined through a detailed hazard risk assessment conducted for the TCRFC. Hazards that pose a “low” or “negligible” risk will continue to be evaluated during future updates to the plan, but they may not be fully addressed until they are determined to be of high or moderate risk. This enables the Coalition and its participating jurisdictions and partners to prioritize mitigation actions based on hazards which are understood to present the greatest risk to lives and property.



Llano River in Llano County
Billy Moore, LCRA ©

Although all communities that participated in the 2004 Plan are continuing in the update process, not all TCRFC member communities are participating. Some communities have formed their own mitigation plan or have chosen not to participate². Table 1-1 below illustrates the member communities that participated in the initial HMAP in 2004, while Table 1-2 displays the new member communities that are participating in the 2009 planning effort. Table 1-3 lists all sixty-one (61) participating communities participating in the Plan Update (organized by alphabetical order rather than by Region).

¹ 44 CFR §201.6(d)(3)

² Hays County, Travis County and the City of Austin are the only members of the TCRFC not participating in this effort as they are developing or have developed separate mitigation plans or mitigation plan updates.

Table 1-1. Participating TCRFC Communities in the 2004 HMAP

Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV
Colorado County City of Columbus City of Eagle Lake Fayette County City of Carmine City of Flatonia City of LaGrange Matagorda County City of Bay City City of Palacios Wharton County City of El Campo City of Wharton	Bastrop County City of Bastrop City of Elgin City of Smithville City of Lago Vista City of Lakeway City of Mustang Ridge City of Point Venture City of San Leanna West Lake Hills Williamson County	Blanco County Johnson City Burnet County City of Bertram City of Cottonwood Shores City of Granite Shoals City of Highland Haven City of Marble Falls City of Meadowlakes Llano County City of Llano City of Sunrise Beach Village Mason County City of Mason	City of Brownwood Lampasas County City of Kempner City of Lampasas City of Lometa San Saba County City of San Saba Mills County City of Goldthwaite

All of the above-referenced communities are participating in the HMAP Update. In addition, several communities that have joined the Coalition since 2004 are participating in the update effort. These communities are listed in Table 1-2.

Table 1-2. New Member Communities Participating in the 2009 Update

Region I	Region II	Region III	Region IV
City of Weimar City of East Bernard	Lee County City of Giddings City of Lexington Village of Briarcliff City of Jonestown Village of Volente City of Cedar Park City of Florence City of Hutto	City of Burnet City of Horseshoe Bay	City of Brady

Table 1-3, below, is a combination of Tables 1-1 and 1-2, providing an alphabetical list of all participating communities in the 2009 update to the 2004 Hazard Mitigation Plan.

Table 1-3. TCRFC Communities Participating in the Update

County	Participating Jurisdiction
Bastrop County	Bastrop County
	Bastrop
	Elgin
	Smithville
Blanco County	Blanco County
	Johnson City
Brown County	Brownwood
Burnet County	Burnet County
	Bertram
	Burnet
	Cottonwood Shores
	Granite Shoals
	Highland Haven
	Marble Falls
	Meadowlakes
Colorado County	Colorado County
	Columbus
	Eagle Lake
	Weimar
Fayette County	Fayette County
	Carmine
	Flatonia
	La Grange
Lampasas County	Lampasas County
	Kempner
	Lampasas
	Lometa
Lee County	Lee County
	Giddings
	Lexington
Llano County	Llano County

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County	Participating Jurisdiction
	Horseshoe Bay
	Llano
	Sunrise Beach Village
Mason County	Mason County
	Mason
Matagorda County	Matagorda County
	Bay City
	Palacios
McCulloch County	Brady
Mills County	Mills County
	Goldthwaite
San Saba County	San Saba County
	San Saba
Travis County	Briarcliff
	Jonestown
	Lago Vista
	Lakeway
	Mustang Ridge
	Point Venture
	San Leanna
	Volente
	West Lake Hills
Wharton County	Wharton County
	East Bernard
	El Campo
	Wharton
Williamson County	Williamson County
	Cedar Park
	Florence
	Hutto

Although this is a Plan Update for the TCRFC, all of the communities in Table 1-2 will be receiving an initial hazard mitigation plan, with the exception of the City of Brady³. Therefore the

³ The City of Brady received an initial hazard mitigation plan under the Concho Valley Council of Governments Regional Plan. Since that time the City has joined as a member of the TCRFC.

communities in Table 1-2 have developed mitigation actions for the first time, and will not have an analysis included for any previous actions.

Purpose

The Coalition was initially formed in response to torrential flooding, but communities in the Lower Colorado River Basin are susceptible to a multitude of natural and man-caused hazards. These hazards are discussed in further detail in Sections 6 through 18. The goal of the plan is to minimize or eliminate long-term risks to human life and property from known hazards by identifying and implementing cost-effective mitigation actions. *Mitigation* is defined by FEMA as *sustained actions taken to reduce or eliminate long-term risk to people and property from hazards and their effects*. The purpose of the Coalitions' mitigation plan is twofold: to protect people and structures, and to minimize the costs of disaster response and recovery.



Flooding in the Colorado River Basin - 2007
Source: LCRA

Through this update process, the Coalition seeks to:

- identify areas of potential flood impact by updating and digitizing flood maps and developing a Floodplain Map Master Plan;
- oversee basin-wide flood elevation and flood-control feasibility studies, and examine options for improved flood control;
- assess National Flood Insurance programs in member communities and encourage improvements in floodplain management;
- assist communities in qualifying for FEMA's Community Rating System, thereby reducing flood insurance premiums for citizens;
- devise legislative solutions to strengthen floodplain and emergency management within the State of Texas; and
- develop and implement comprehensive, all-hazards Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Lower Colorado River Basin.

The overarching Mission Statement for the Update is, *“Maintaining a Disaster-Resistant Basin in order to better protect people and property in the Texas Colorado River Floodplain Coalition through the development of wise planning, effective administration, and coordinated policies.”*

Authority

The updated Hazard Mitigation Plan will result in the incorporation of newly added jurisdictions to the TCRFC. The Plan will be integrated into the existing Hazard Mitigation Plan for the Lower Colorado River Basin, utilizing a basin-wide approach. The updated plan will reflect conditions that have changed since the completion of the 2004 plan. When complete, the updated plan will comply with all requirements promulgated by the Governor’s Division of Emergency Management (GDEM) and all applicable provisions of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, Section 104 of the Disaster Mitigation Act of 2000 (DMA 2000) (P.L. 106-390), and the Bunning-Bereuter-Blumenauer Flood Insurance Reform Act of 2004 (P.L. 108-264), which amended the National Flood Insurance Act (NFIA) of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4001, et al). It will also comply with FEMA’s February 26, 2002 Interim Final Rule (“the Rule”) at 44 CFR Part 201 which specifies the criteria for approval of mitigation plans required in Section 322 of the DMA 2000. The updated plan will also be developed in accordance with FEMA’s Community Rating System (CRS) Floodplain Management Plan standards and policies.



Summary of Sections

Sections 1 and 2 of the Plan outline the purpose of the TCRFC mitigation plan and the process of development. Section 3 describes the entire region and profiles population, economy and education. Section 4 identifies the people and property at risk, and Section 5 identifies hazards facing the TCRFC, including the process of identification and risk assessment methodologies utilized.

Sections 6 through 18 present information on individual hazards. These hazards appear generally in order of priority based on potential losses in terms of loss of life and property and other community concerns. For each hazard, the plan presents a description of the hazard, a history of historical hazard events, and the results of the vulnerability and risk assessment process.

Section 19 describes the capability assessment, findings and previously implemented mitigation measures. Section 20 presents mitigation goal revisions and objectives. Actions for the Region as a whole are presented in Section 21, while local mitigation actions organized by Region are provided in sections 21 through 25. Section 26 identifies repetitive loss properties and discusses compliance with the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP).

Appendix A contains resolutions adopting the plan⁴. Appendix B identifies the Advisory Committee and all members of the Planning Team. Public survey results are analyzed in Appendix C. Appendix

⁴ Appendix A contains a sample resolution. Each community will formally adopt the Plan pending approval from FEMA.

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D lists grant funding opportunities for state and federal programs. Appendix E contains documentation of meetings in the form of sign-in sheets. Appendix F contains a detailed list of critical facilities, and Appendix G lists toxic sites for the area⁵. Appendix H contains Flood Mitigation Plans for Matagorda and Wharton County and their respective, incorporated cities.

⁵ For privacy concerns, Appendix F and Appendix G will not be made available to the general public.