July 28th, 2025

Re: Additional Funding for the Flood Infrastructure Fund

Texas Living Waters is a coalition of organizations dedicated to safeguarding Texas' waters. As the special legislative session convenes, we are mourning the loss of life across Texas due to flash-flood events. In light of these floods, Governor Abbott added several flood-related items to the special session agenda.

Texas has long faced the challenges of both drought and flood, and these tragedies have underscored the critical need to invest in infrastructure that can protect lives, property, and economic stability. The Flood Infrastructure Fund (FIF), created in 2019 and administered by the Texas Water Development Board, has proven to be a vital resource for communities across the state. It helps fund flood mitigation projects, including drainage improvements and early warning systems, that local governments could not otherwise afford. It is the only fund explicitly designed for flood mitigation grants and zero-interest loans in Texas. The special legislative session presents an opportunity to address infrastructure needs that contribute to flood resilience by allocating more funding to the FIF. The undersigned organizations urge members of the Texas Legislature to consider additional funding for the FIF during this special legislative session.

The Texas Water Fund, pending the passage of Proposition 4 in November, will have the ability to transfer funds to the FIF. While this is a positive step towards steady, dedicated funding, that money will not be available until 2027 if the measure is approved.

The approved funding categories within FIF support Governor Abbott's stated priorities for this special legislative session, including flood warning systems, flood emergency communications, and natural disaster preparation and recovery. Overall, $669 million in funding has been committed to Texas communities through the Flood Infrastructure Fund which today has funded 140 projects. With the completion of the State Flood Plan, $54.5 billion in projects have been identified. Additional funds would enable the TWDB to expedite the implementation of projects and enable communities to be better prepared for extreme weather events.

Notably, the FIF funds Nature-Based Solutions projects, projects that use a community's naturally occurring features to protect, mitigate, or reduce flood risk. This includes green stormwater infrastructure, stormwater parks, living shorelines, and protection and restoration of riparian corridors, floodplains, coastal areas, and wetlands.

Below are some example projects that have already received funding:

- Bee County, Dewitt County, and Uvalde County were all awarded FIF funding to install flood early warning systems.
- Llano County - received $15,974 to update and consolidate the Llano and San Saba counties hazard mitigation plan.
- Marble Falls received $25.6m in FIF funds to relocate the wastewater treatment plant out of the floodplain. This proactive move will prevent complications from potential flooding like sewage overflows that could contaminate drinking water, disrupted service, and costly repairs.

The undersigned are supportive of additional funding to the FIF.

Marie Camino
Government Relations Program Manager
The Nature Conservancy in Texas
marie.camino@tnc.org

Marisa Bruno
Water Program Manager
Hill Country Alliance
marisa@hillcountryalliance.org

Jennifer Walker
Director, Texas Coast and Water Program
National Wildlife Federation
walkerj@nwf.org

Usman Mahmood
Policy Analyst
Bayou City Waterkeeper
usman@bayoucitywaterkeeper.org

Jacob Hupp
Government Affairs and Public Policy Manager
Galveston Bay Foundation
jhupp@galvbay.org

Evgenia Spears
Water Program Coordinator
Sierra Club Lonestar Chapter
evgenia.spears@sierraclub.org