LOWER COLORADO-LAVACA FLOOD PLANNING REGION

In 2019, the Texas Legislature enacted Senate Bill 8 which directs the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) to prepare a first ever State Flood Plan. The State Flood Plan will be built upon a regional flood planning process much like that used for the development of the State Water Plan for the last 20+ years. Fifteen (15) flood planning regions have been established along large watershed boundaries. Each region has an appointed Regional Flood Planning Group (RFPG) with representation of 11 interest categories, such as counties, cities, agriculture, and river authorities... The RFPG is responsible for developing a Regional Flood Plan (RFP) that satisfies TWDB requirements. Flood mitigation projects must be included in the RFP to be eligible for State financial assistance through TWDB. After adoption of regional flood plans TWDB will combine the 15 plans into the first State Flood Plan. The regional and state flood planning process will repeat every five years.

The Lower Colorado-Lavaca Region (Flood Planning Region #10) is comprised of two major river basins, the lower portion of the Colorado River and the Lavaca River Basin. The region extends from the northwest near San Angelo to the southeast to Matagorda and Lavaca bays and the Guld of Mexico. Major tributaries within these basins in the Llano, Pedernales, San Saba, Lavaca, and Navidad rivers and Sandy, Onion, Cummins, Champions creeks. Major surface water impoundments, some of which have flood storage, include Hords Creek Lake, the Highland Lakes chain, and Lake Texana.

The central portion of the Lower Colorado-Lavaca Region lies within what's known as "Flash Flood Alley", one of the most flood prone areas of the U.S. Major storm and flood events can occur throughout the year but are most common during the spring and fall. Much of the region, particularly the lower coastal areas, are exposed to tropical storms and hurricanes with flooding caused by heavy area-wide rainfall and coastal storm surge.

The Austin Metropolitan Area is the major population center in the with a current population of approximately 2.3 million, the majority of which is in the Lower Colorado-Lavaca Region. The region's population is projected to increase by 50% by 2050. In terms of land use, much of the region is rural in nature with small and medium size towns and cities interspersed throughout. The region also includes several public agencies with flood control and drainage responsibilities including the Lower Colorado and the Lavaca-Navidad river authorities, utility districts, and drainage districts.

45
Counties, or a portion of each, are included in this basin

~15%
of the basin is within the 1% annual chance flood event

>24,000
Sq. miles
Total Basin Area

FLOOD-RELATED PRESIDENTIAL DISASTER DECLARATIONS (1953 – MAR 2020)

50
Major Disaster Declarations

6
Emergency Declarations

Over 25% of Disaster Declarations and 50% of Emergency Declarations have occurred within the region since 2008

FLOOD EVENTS (1996-2019)

Over 110+ major flood events have occurred in the last 20 years with significant losses to life and property.

FEMA FLOOD CLAIMS (1984 – JAN 2021)

364
Flood Claims

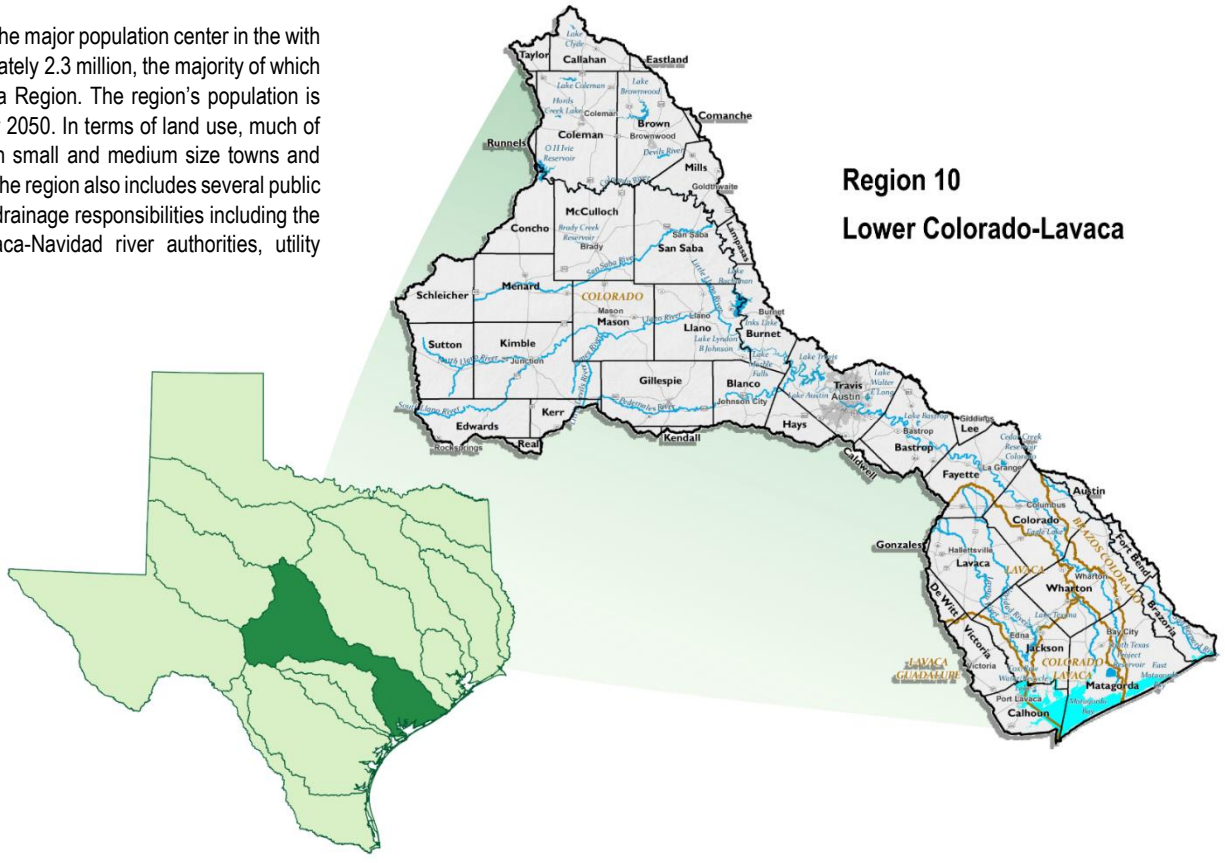
$889.5 M
Flood Claims Paid

ANTICIPATED POPULATION GROWTH

50%
forecasted increase in population between 2020 and 2050

AGRICULTURAL FLOOD LOSSES

Significant historical flood losses, most recently 2015 and 2016



Source: Federal Emergency Management Agency, Texas Water Development Board, Texas Natural Resources Information System.