

By: Virdell

H.B. No. 306

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and report by the Upper Guadalupe River
Authority of risks from and solutions to flooding.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Authority" means the Upper Guadalupe River
Authority.

(2) "Board" means the Texas Water Development Board.

(3) "Regional flood plan" means the regional flood
plan developed under Section 16.062, Water Code, for the flood
planning region that includes the upper Guadalupe River basin.

(4) "Regional flood planning group" means the regional
flood planning group designated under Section 16.062, Water Code,
whose flood planning region includes the upper Guadalupe River
basin.

SECTION 2. STUDY AND REPORT. (a) The authority, in
consultation with the board, the Texas Department of
Transportation, and the regional flood planning group, shall
conduct a risk assessment and project feasibility study to:

(1) quantify the risk to life and property posed by
flooding in the upper Guadalupe River basin;

(2) assess potential solutions to mitigate flood risks
identified under Subdivision (1) of this subsection; and

(3) propose not more than eight projects that will

1 help mitigate the flood risks identified under Subdivision (1) of
2 this subsection.

3 (b) In quantifying the risk to life and property under
4 Subsection (a)(1) of this section, the authority shall:

5 (1) collect and assess existing data, including the
6 data collected in connection with the regional flood plan, any
7 integrated flood risk management studies for the area, topographic
8 data, existing locally developed models, structure inventories,
9 and hydrologic analyses;

10 (2) update as appropriate the information collected
11 under Subdivision (1) of this subsection by incorporating the July
12 4, 2025, weather event; and

13 (3) develop hydraulic models for the major creeks and
14 rivers within the upper Guadalupe River basin.

15 (c) In assessing potential solutions to mitigate flood
16 risks under Subsection (a)(2) of this section, the authority shall:

17 (1) identify projects that reduce susceptibility to
18 flooding, including off-river detention storage, on-river dams,
19 improved evacuation routes, river channel modification, and
20 improved or new storm drainage systems;

21 (2) develop a hydraulic model for each potential
22 project to determine the effect of the project with respect to:

23 (A) flood mitigation;

24 (B) water supply;

25 (C) groundwater recharge;

26 (D) recreation; and

27 (E) environmental impacts; and

1 (3) conduct community meetings to gather input and
2 feedback from residents with respect to the projects.

3 (d) In proposing projects that may help mitigate the flood
4 risks under Subsection (a)(3) of this section, the authority shall:

5 (1) determine the costs and benefits of each project;

6 (2) score and rank the projects based on community
7 feedback and the costs and benefits of the projects; and

8 (3) to the extent possible, develop design documents
9 for the highest-ranked projects to expedite the completion of those
10 projects.

11 (e) Not later than January 1, 2027, the authority shall
12 present to the board and the legislature a report that contains a
13 summary of the study conducted under this Act and a description of
14 the projects identified by the authority that would best mitigate
15 flooding in the upper Guadalupe River basin.

16 SECTION 3. EXPIRATION. This Act expires January 1, 2028.

17 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect on the
18 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.