

# The Legislature and the Flood Infrastructure Fund

State Representative Alex Dominguez

# Road Map

- Existing Flood Programs
- Lessons from Harvey
- FIF and How It Works
- What's next?

# Existing Programs

- Flood Mitigation Assistance Grant Program
  - Under FEMA, assists states and communities by providing up to 100% federal funds for cost-effective measures to reduce or eliminate the long-term risk of flood damage.
- The Flood Protection Grant Program
  - Provides up to 50% state financial assistance to political subdivisions to conduct feasibility studies for an entire watershed, planning for Flood Early Warning Systems or for a Flood Response Plan

# Existing Programs

- Cooperating Technical Partners (CTP) Program
  - Launched to increase local involvement in developing and updating Flood Insurance Rate Maps (FIRMs), Flood Insurance Study (FIS) reports and associated geospatial data
- National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)
  - Administered by the Federal Insurance Administration and the Mitigation Directorate, part of FEMA.

# Lessons from Harvey

- Impact of Hurricane Harvey
  - \$125 billion in damage
  - Massive flooding along Gulf Coast
  - Second most costly hurricane since 1900
  - Upwards of 13 million people affected
  - 27 trillion gallons of rainfall
- Need for flood mapping
- Emphasis on planning and mitigation

# FIF and How it Works

- State Flood Plan
  - Product of comprehensive effort intended to better manage flood risks, including providing greater protection for Texans against loss of life and property from flooding.
  - Will focus on evaluating existing flood infrastructure and will include a statewide, ranked list of ongoing proposed flood control and mitigation projects and strategies.
  - First plan is due September 1, 2024, with later plans due every five years.
- Flood Infrastructure Fund
  - Created as a fund that could provide grants and low-cost loans for drainage, flood mitigation, and flood control projects.
  - A one-time \$793 million transfer from the Economic Stabilization Fund (Rainy Day Fund).
  - Makes the implementation of drainage and flood projects more affordable and meets immediate needs for funding
  - Creates a state flood plan

# FIF and How it Works

- How funds are disbursed
  - Communities and other eligible entities would apply for financial assistance, and the TWDB would evaluate projects according to specific application requirements.
  - Would be disbursed for projects that meet all requirements, rank within the amount of funds available, and receive a formal commitment from the TWDB's governing Board.
  - Funding could be available as early as the first quarter of 2020.

# What's Next?

- Voters approved the constitutional amendment allowing funding of FIF
- TWDB is in the formal rulemaking process and has held public comment forums and received public comments
- There will be an opportunity to review and comment on proposed rules when they are published this fall
- Anticipating the final rules will be adopted by early 2020.
- Anticipating the regional flood planning process will be developed and initial regional flood planning groups formed by mid-2020.

# Who to Contact

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