

INTRODUCTION

Background	1
Scope.....	5
Purpose	5
Authority	6
Summary of Sections	6

Background

The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) was established by the Texas Legislature and created in 1933 under Section 59, Article 16 of the Constitution of Texas, as a water conservation and reclamation district and a public corporation called the Guadalupe River Authority. In 1935, it was reauthorized by an act of the Texas Legislature (VCS Art. 8280-106) as the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority. The mission of the GBRA is to: “protect, conserve, reclaim and steward the resources of the ten-county District in order to ensure and promote quality of life for those we serve.” One of the goals of the Authority is to ensure (1) a supply of quality water for both immediate and long-term needs of the District by development of all feasible alternatives; and (2) development of flood management measures.

With ongoing water resources planning, the GBRA remains dedicated to preventing damage before a disaster occurs. In 2005 the GBRA facilitated development of a Hazard Mitigation Action Plan (HMAP) approved by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) entitled, “Hazard Mitigation in the Guadalupe River Basin – Protecting the Region Against All Hazards.” This HMAP was formed with technical assistance provided by GBRA and H2O Partners, Inc. of Austin, Texas. Seven counties and nineteen cities participated in the initial HMAP.

GBRA Mission Statement

The Mission of the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority is to protect, conserve, reclaim and steward the resources of the ten-county District in order to ensure and promote quality of life for those we serve.

The vision statement of the GBRA is to be a widely recognized leader in managing water resources that benefit both people and the environment.

Consistent with this vision, GBRA took the lead in sponsoring the development of a comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan Update (“Plan” or “Plan Update”) for the cities and counties that participated in the 2005 HMAP as well as any additional communities that wished to join as part of the Plan Update. 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

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

grant funding¹. Therefore GBRA began the planning process to renew the HMAP and completely update each section of the original Plan.

Although GBRA’s District covers a ten-County area, the City of Cibolo in Guadalupe County is the only additional jurisdiction participating in the Plan Update along with all of the original jurisdictions that participated in the 2005 planning effort. Table 1-1 lists the participating and non-participating communities in the Plan Update, while Figure 1-1 presents an overview of the area and participating jurisdictions.

Table 1-1. Participating and Non-Participating Jurisdictions in the Study Area

PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS	NON-PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS
Caldwell County	
City of Lockhart	City of Niederwald
City of Luling	City of Uhland
City of Martindale	
Calhoun County	
Point Comfort	
Port Lavaca	
Seadrift	
DeWitt County	
DeWitt County Drainage District ²	
City of Cuero	
City of Nordheim	
City of Yoakum	
City of Yorktown	
Gonzales County	
City of Gonzales	City of Smiley
City of Nixon	
City of Waelder	
City of Cibolo	Guadalupe County

¹ 44 CFR §201.6(d)(3)

² The DeWitt County Drainage District is a participating jurisdiction of the Plan Update as they were included into the plan by amendment in 2007. The district fully participated in all workshops and developed mitigation actions, however, as the risks for the district are the same as the County, the district is not listed separately in the hazard sections of the Plan Update.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS	NON-PARTICIPATING JURISDICTIONS
City of Cibolo	
Kendall County	
City of Boerne	
Refugio County	
City of Austwell	
City of Bayside	
Town of Refugio	
City of Woodsboro	
Woodsboro Independent School District ³	
Victoria County	
City of Victoria	

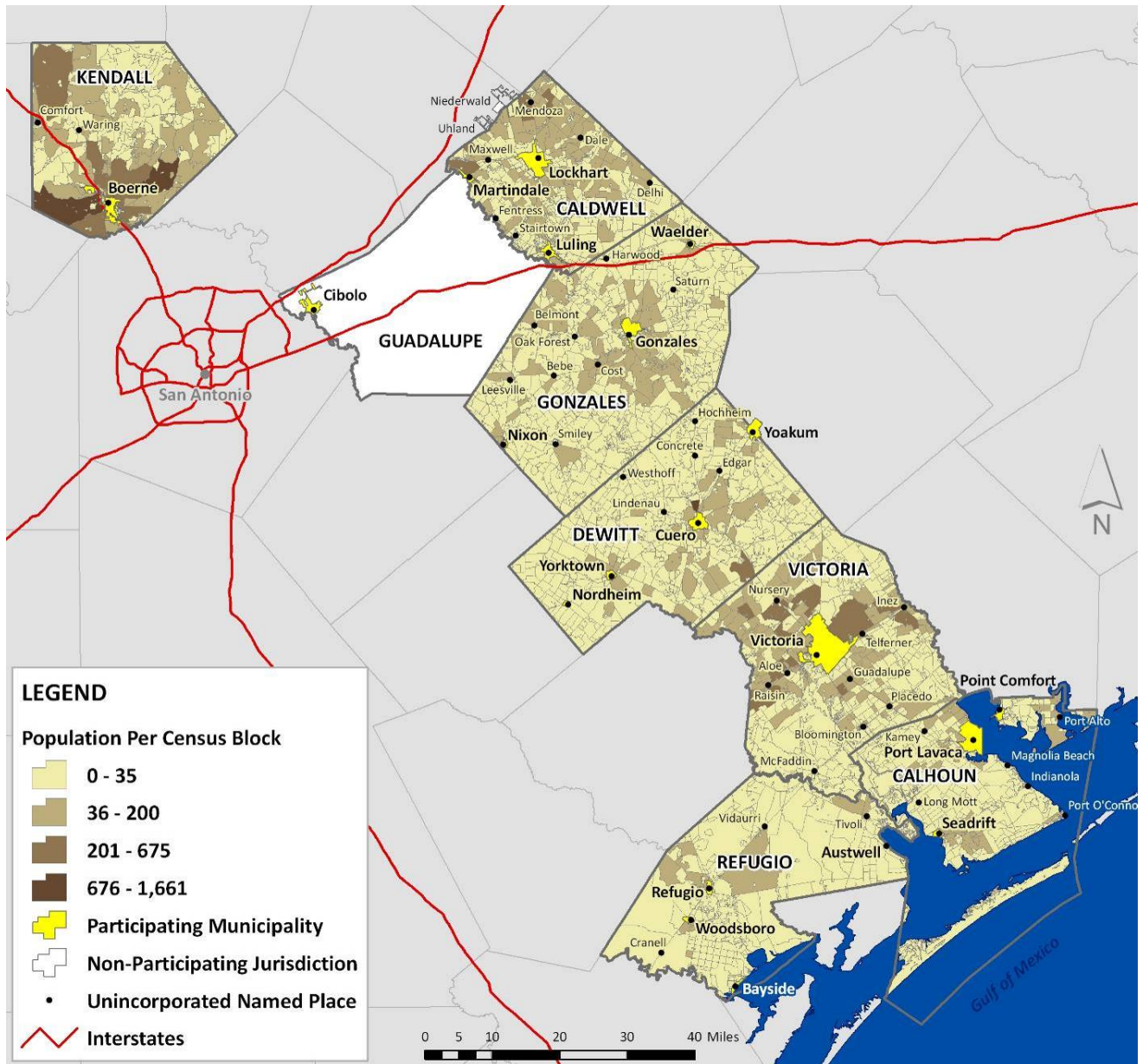
To give a comprehensive overview of the Guadalupe River Basin in its entirety, some background information is included on counties in the GBRA Region that are not participating in the Plan Update, including Hays, Comal and Guadalupe⁴ Counties.

³ Although Woodsboro ISD is a participating entity, the school district is not listed separately in the hazard sections of the Plan Update as the risks and vulnerabilities are the same as the Town of Woodsboro and critical facilities on campus were factored into the vulnerability assessment for Woodsboro.

⁴ The City of Cibolo in Guadalupe County will be participating in the Plan Update, but Guadalupe County will not.

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Figure 1-1. Overview of Jurisdictions Participating in the Plan Update



SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Scope

The focus of the Plan Update is to mitigate hazards that are classified as “high” or “moderate” risk as determined through a detailed hazard risk assessment conducted for the participating GBRA jurisdictions. 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 GBRA 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.

Purpose

This Plan Update was prepared by the GBRA, H2O Partners, Inc. and subcontractor PBS&J. It is an opportunity for the GBRA and participating jurisdictions to evaluate successful mitigation actions and explore opportunities to avoid future disaster loss.

In developing the Plan, GBRA and Plan participants identified fifteen natural and man-caused hazards (profiled in detail in Sections 5-18) to be addressed as 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*. Therefore the purpose of the Plan Update is to continue developing successful mitigation projects to bring together cities and counties in order to reduce future risk of loss of life or damage to property in the GBRA Region.

Through this update process, the GBRA and Plan participants seek to:

- Assess previous mitigation projects and develop unique mitigation strategies to meet future development and risks;
- Encourage improvements in floodplain management, participation in the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP); and qualifying for FEMA’s Community Rating System, thereby reducing flood insurance premiums for citizens;
- Devise solutions to strengthen emergency management by addressing moderate and high risk natural and man-caused hazards; and
- Develop and implement a comprehensive Hazard Mitigation Plan Update for the GBRA Region.

The overarching Mission Statement for the Plan Update is, “Protecting resources in order to preserve and promote quality of life in the GBRA Region.”

SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION

Authority

The updated plan will comply with all requirements promulgated by the Texas Division of Emergency Management (TDEM) 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). 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 and standards



found in FEMA's "Local Multi-Hazard Mitigation Planning Guidance" (released July 1, 2008). The updated plan will 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 Plan Update and the process of development. Section 3 profiles the region, while Section 4 provides an overview of the people and property at risk and hazards facing the area, including the process of identification and risk assessment methodologies utilized.

Sections 5 through 18 present information on individual hazards. For each hazard, the plan presents a description of the hazard, the hazard extent, a history of historical hazard events, the probability of future occurrences, and the results of the vulnerability and risk assessment process.

Section 19 presents mitigation goals and objectives. Section 20 provides the previous mitigation strategies submitted in the 2005 Plan and a current analysis for each action, while Section 21 contains all of the newly developed mitigation actions for Plan Update. Section 22 identifies plan maintenance procedures including Plan incorporation and implementation.

Appendix A contains a list of the planning team and stakeholders. Public survey results are analyzed in Appendix B. Appendix C lists toxic sites for the area and Appendix D contains a detailed listing of critical facilities. Appendix E contains documentation of meetings in the form of sign-in sheets⁵.

⁵ For privacy concerns, Appendices C-E will not be made available to the general public.