



# NEWS

GUADALUPE-BLANCO RIVER AUTHORITY  
933 EAST COURT STREET, SEGUIN, TEXAS 78155

## GBRA Guadalupe River Basin Mitigation Action Plan receives final approval from FEMA

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**SEGUIN-** The Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority (GBRA) announced today that the Hazard Mitigation Action Plan (MAP) for the Guadalupe River Basin has received final approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).

The plan, which covers 26 counties and cities in the GBRA district, was prepared with technical support and coordination provided by GBRA and its contractor, H2O Partners, Inc. of Austin. The final plan, including MAP's for each participating jurisdiction, is on the GBRA website at [www.gbra.org](http://www.gbra.org). Tommy Hill, chief engineer and Judy Gardner, manager of communications and education, served as project officers for the MAP process.

Official notification was sent to GBRA general manager Bill West from Jack Colley, state coordinator for the Governor's Division of Emergency Management in Austin. Colley's letter congratulated GBRA and the plan participants for their successful efforts. "By receiving this approval, GBRA and the 26 communities that participated in the development of the MAP remain eligible for Hazard Mitigation Grant Program and Pre-Disaster Mitigation Grant Program funds. The effort put into developing this plan demonstrates that you are committed to implementing actions that eliminate or reduce the severity of hazards on people and property in the communities that are a part of the GBRA MAP."

"Texas experiences its fair share of hurricanes, tornadoes, droughts and floods – and there's a good reason why the Guadalupe River Basin has been called 'flash flood alley'," said GBRA's West. "Natural disasters cannot be escaped, but their damage and financial impact can be reduced through a process known as hazard mitigation planning."

The Disaster Mitigation Act, passed by Congress in 2000, required FEMA to enact new regulations requiring counties, cities and other entities to develop individual MAP's. Each plan had to contain action items targeting specific mitigation efforts and be approved by FEMA by November 1, 2004 in order to be eligible for certain forms of Federal mitigation assistance.

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“We realized that the required plan development process would be difficult for many smaller communities, so GBRA applied for and received a \$200,000 Pre-Disaster Mitigation (PDM) Grant from FEMA,” West said.

The basin-wide cooperative planning process began in September 2002, with a series of public meetings and workshops for local officials sponsored by GBRA and H2O Partners.

The result was a comprehensive All-Hazard Mitigation Action Plan for the GBRA statutory district with specific action plans developed by the following participating entities: Kendall County and the City of Boerne; Caldwell County and the cities of Lockhart, Luling and Martindale; DeWitt County and the cities of Cuero, Nordheim, Yoakum, and Yorktown; Gonzales County and the cities of Gonzales, Nixon and Waelder; Calhoun County and the cities of Point Comfort, Port Lavaca and Seadrift; Refugio County and the cities of Austwell, Bayside, Woodsboro and the Town of Refugio; Victoria County and the City of Victoria.

Three counties -- Comal, Hays and Guadalupe – developed plans separately from the GBRA grant.

“This cooperative effort is consistent with GBRA’s stated mission and strategic plan objectives to ensure and promote quality of life for those we serve,” said West. “These plans will help build sustainable communities that will sustain fewer losses, recover more quickly, and maintain their eligibility for the full range of future Federal disaster relief.”